



*Sold by B. Tooke and T. Sawbridge 168*  
F. H. VAN HOUTE.



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F. H. VAN HOUTE. J.



THE  
EXPERIENC'D  
ANGLER:  
OR,  
ANGLING IMPROV'D.  
BEING  
*A General Discourse*  
OF  
ANGLING.

Imparting the Aptest Ways and  
Choicest Experiments for the ta-  
king of most sorts of FISH in *Pond*  
or *River*.

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By Col. ROBERT VENABLES.

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*The Fifth Edition much Enlarged.*

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T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

**D***elight and Pleasure* are so fast Rivetted and firmly Rooted in the Heart of Man, that I suppose there is none so morose or melancholy, that will not only pretend to, but plead for an interest in the same, most being so much enamoured therewith, that they judge that life but a living death, which is wholly deprived or abridged of all Pleasure; and many pursue the same with so much eagerness and importunity, (as though they had been born for no other end) as that they not onely consume their most precious time, but also totally ruine their Estates thereby: for in this loose and licentious Age, when profuse Prodigality passes for the Characteristical mark of true Generosity; and Frugality (I mean not Niggardliness) is branded with the ignominious

A 3.

*To the Reader.*

nominous blot of Baseness, I expect not that this undervalued Subject (though it propound delight at an easie rate) will meet with any other Entertainment than Neglect, if not Contempt, it being an Art which few take pleasure in, nothing passing for noble or delightful which is not costly; as though men could not gratifie their Senses, but with the consumption of their Fortunes.

*Hawking* and *Hunting* have had their Excellencies celebrated with large *Encomiums* by divers Pens; and although I intend not any undervaluing to those noble Recreations, so much famed in all Ages and by all degrees, yet I must needs affirm, that they fall not within the compass of every ones ability to pursue, being, as it were, onely entailed on great persons and vast Estates; for if meaner Fortunes seek to enjoy them, *Actæon's* Fable often proves a true story, and those Birds of Prey not seldom quarry upon their

*To the Reader.*

their Masters : Besides, those Recreations are more subject to choler and passion, by how much those Creatures exceed a Hook or Line in worth ; And indeed in those Exercises our pleasure depends much upon the will and humor of a sullen Cur, or *Kite*, (as I have heard their own passions phrase them) which also require much attendance, care, and skill to keep her serviceable to our ends. Further these delights are often prejudicial to the Husbandman in his Corn, Grass and Fences; but in this pleasant and harmless *Art of Angling*, a man hath none to quarrel with but himself, and we are usually so intirely our own friends, as not to retain an irreconcilable hatred against our selves, but can in short time easily compose the enmity ; and besides our selves none are offended, none endamaged ; and this Recreation falleth within the capacity of the lowest fortune to compass, affording also profit as well

To the Reader.

as pleasure ; in following of which Exercise a man may imploy his thoughts in the noblest Studies, almost as freely as in his Closet.

The Minds of *Anglers* being usually more calm and composed than many others, especially *Hunters* and *Falkners*, who too frequently lose their delight in their passion, and too often bring home more of melancholy and discontent than satisfaction in their thoughts ; But the *Angler*, when he hath the worst success, loseth but a Hook or Line, or perhaps ( what he never possessed ) a Fish, and suppose he take nothing, yet he enjoyeth a delightfull walk by pleasant Rivers, in sweet Pastures, amongst odoriferous Flowers, which gratifie his Senses, and delight his Mind ; which Contentments induce many ( who affect not *Angling* ) to choose those places of pleasure for their Summers Recreation and Health.

But peradventure some may a  
ledg

To the Reader.

ledge that this art is mean, melancholy, and insipid: I suppose the old Answer, *De gustibus non est disputandum*, will hold as firmly in Recreations as Palats; many have supposed *Angling* void of delight, having never tried it, yet have afterwards experimented it so full of content, that they have quitted all other Recreation, (at least in its season) to pursue it, and I do perswade myself, that whosoever shall associate himself with some honest, expert *Angler*, who will freely and candidly communicate his skill unto him, will in short time be convinced, that *Ars non habet inimicum nisi ignorantem*; and the more any experiment its harmless delight, (not subject to passion or expence) probably he will be induc'd to relinquish those pleasures which are obnoxious to choler or contention (which so discompose the thoughts, that nothing during that unsettlement can relish or delight the Mind) to pursue that  
Recre-

*To the Reader.*

Recreation which composeth the Soul to that calmness and serenity, which gives a man the fullest possession and fruition of himself and all his enjoyments; this clearness and equanimity of Spirit being a matter of so high a concern and value in the judgments of many profound Philosophers, as any one may see that will bestow the pains to read *Seneca, De tranquillitate animi*, and *Petrarch, De utriusque conditionis statu*: Certainly he that lives *Sibi & Deo*, leads the most happy life; and if this Art do not dispose and incline the Mind of man to a quiet calm sedateness, I am confident it doth not (as many other delights) cast blocks and rubs before him to make his way more difficult and less pleasant. The cheapness of the Recreation abates not its pleasure, but with rational persons heightens it; and if it be delightful, the charge of Melancholy falls upon that score, and if Example (which is the best proof) may sway any thing,



*To the Reader.*

thing, I know no sort of men less subject to Melancholy than *Anglers*; many have cast off other Recreations and embraced it, but I never knew any *Angler* wholly cast off (though occasions might interrupt) their affections to their beloved Recreation; and if this art may prove a *Noble, brave rest* to my mind, 'tis all the satisfaction I covet.

I have one Request for my self; which is, that thou apply not what is spoken concerning clear and swift Rivers, to slow or more dark coloured waters, nor the contrary: and if some passages do appear at first view as if contradictory, read them again, and take them in their most moderate and reconcileable sense, but force them not to clash by thy Interpretation, which of themselves intend it not; proposing only (from different grounds and reasons) to a further discovery, make particular instances and deductions from general Rules; But withal remember that  
every

*To the Reader.*

every general admits of particular exceptions, and so thou hast my full scope and mind. To write so as to be plainly understood by every dull capacity, were to prostitute this pleasant Art, and render it contemptible; I desire chiefly to speak, so as to give Ingenuity liberty and scope to exercise it self; and also to provoke others to correct Errors, and out of their own experience to supply defects, and thereby make this delightful Art compleat and perfect, which would be very great content and satisfaction to thy well wishing Friend.

*Robert Venables.*

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TO HIS  
*ingenious Friend the* A U T H O R,  
ON HIS  
A N G L I N G Improv'd.

Honoured Sir,

les.

**T** Hough I never (to my knowledg )  
had the happiness to see your Face,  
et accidentally coming to a view of this  
Discourse before it went to the Press, I held  
myself obliged in point of gratitude for the  
great advantage I receiv'd thereby, to ten-  
der you my particular acknowledg<sup>mt</sup>, e-  
pecially having been for thirty years past,  
not only a Lover but a practiser of that  
innocent Recreation, wherein by your judi-  
cious Precepts I find my self fitted for a  
Higher Form ; which expression I take  
the boldness to use, because I have read and  
practis'd

practised by many Books of this kind, formerly made publick; from which (although I received much advantage in the practick yet (without prejudice to their worthy Authors) I could never find in them that height of Judgment and Reason, which you have manifested in this (as I may call it) Epitome of Angling, since my reading whereof cannot look upon some Notes of my own gathering, but methinks I do puerilia tractare. But lest I should be thought to go about to magnifie my own Judgment, in giving yours small a portion of its due, I humbly take leave with no more ambition than to kiss your hand and to be accounted

Your humble and

thankful Servant

J. W

To the Author of the *Experienc'd Angler*,

By a Brother of the *Angle*.

U D.s Fish, What have you done ! y'ave half undon's,  
The ART OF ANGLING to disclose at once,  
By Publishing this Book : what ? you a Lover  
Of the said ART, and yet so much discover !  
I cant but snap at you ; Why this same Book  
Teacheth to 'stroy all Fish by Hook or Crook.  
Your plain Directions when men understand,  
No Fish above ground can escape their Hand ;  
For thereby Pike, Carp, Tench, Pearch, Gudgeon, Trout,  
Etc. may have a total rout.

Pray tell's the reason, 'T must be no small matter  
That makes you strive of them to clear the water.

You'r no *Recusant*, sure ; if y'are, you'd strive  
More to preserve, and keep their Race alive :  
Your Book foreshews, and makes it evident  
That, *In fews years, we cannot keep a Lent.*

But yet, Sir, 'Twas well done, therein to put  
To every of these Fish, so fair a Cut ;  
That so when we o'th Fish deprived are,  
The Cuts remain to shew what Shape they were.

Pardon, Sir, these confused Lines of mine ;  
In too much hast, I've cast in every Line :  
I could not draw 'em smooth ; For who could stay,  
Seeing Fish going all so plūm away.

For I must say, *To catch Fish and to cheat 'em,*  
Find who can surer ways, and troth I'll eat 'em.

T. B.

# THE CONTENTS OF THE CHAPTERS.

CHAP. <b>W</b>	When to provide Tools, and how to make & fit them,	1
I.	Divers sorts of Angling,	11
II.	Of the artificial Flie,	17
III.	Of angling at the ground,	31
IV.	All sorts of Baits for each kind of Fish,	47
V.	How to find and keep your Baits,	61
VI.	The haunts of several Fish,	69
VII.	What times are unseasonable to Angle in,	75
VIII.	Best times and seasons to Angle,	78
IX.	General observations,	89

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THE  
EXPERIENC'D  
ANGLER:  
OR,  
Angling Improv'd.

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CHAP. I.

*When to provide Tools, and how to  
make them.*

**F**OR the attaining of such Ends  
which our Desires purpose to  
themselves, of necessity we  
must make use of such com-  
mon *Mediums*, as have a Na-  
tural Tendency to the producing of  
such effects, as are in our Eye, and at  
which we aim; and as in any work, if

B one

The Intro-  
duction  
to the En-  
ing Dis-  
course.

one principal Material be wanting, the whole is at a stand, neither can the same be perfected: So in *Angling*, the end being Recreation, which consisteth in drawing the Fish to bite, that we may take them; if you want Tools though you have Baits, or Baits though you have Tackle, yet you have no part of pleasure by either of these singly: Nay, if you have both, yet want skill to use them, all the rest is to little purpose. I shall therefore first begin with your Tools, and so proceed in order with the rest.

The time  
to provide  
Stocks and  
Tops.

I. In *Autumn*, when the Leaves are almost or altogether fallen ( which is usually about the Winter Solstice ) the Sap being then in the Root, which about the middle of *January* beginneth to ascend again, and then the time is past to provide your selves with Stocks or Tops: you need not be so exactly curious for your Stocks, as the Tops; though I wish you to choose the neatest Taper-ground you can for Stocks, but let your Tops be the most neat Rush-ground shoots you can get, streight and smooth; & (if for the ground-rod) near, or full two Yards long ( the reason for that length shall be given presently ) and if for the Flie, of what length you please, because you must either choose them



them to fit the Stock, or the Stock to fit them in a most exact proportion; neither do they need to be so very much Taper-ground as those for the ground, for if your Rod be not most exactly proportionable, (as well as slender) it will neither cast well, strike readily, nor ply and bend equally, which will very much endanger your Line. When you have fitted your self with Tops, and Stocks (for all must be gathered in one season) if any of them be crooked, bind them all together, and they will keep one another straight; or lay them on some even boarded floor, with a Weight on the crooked parts, or else bind them close to some straight staff or pole; but before you do this, you must breath them all, save the very top, in a gentle fire.

For the ground-Angle, I prefer the Cane or Reed before all other, both for its length and lightness; and whereas some object against its colour and stiffness: I answer, both these inconveniences are easily remedied, the colour by covering it with thin Leather or Parchment, and those dyed into what colour you please, or you may colour the Cane it self, as you see daily done by those that sell them in *London*, especially if you scrape off the shi-

The use  
of the  
Reed or  
Cane.

ning yellow outside, but that weakneth  
 the Rod, the stiffness of the Cane is help-  
 ed by the length and strength of the top,  
 which I would wish to be very much ta-  
 per-grown, and of the full length I spoke  
 of before, and so it will kill a very good  
 Fish without ever straining the Cane,  
 which will ( as you may observe ) yield  
 and bend a little; neither would I advise  
 any to use a Reed that will not receive a  
 Top of the fore-mentioned length. Such  
 who most commend the Hazel rod (which  
 I also value and praise, but for different  
 reasons) above the Cane, do it because  
 say they, the slender Rod saveth the Line  
 but my opinion is, that the equal bending  
 of the Rod chiefly ( next to the skill of  
 the *Angler* ) saveth the Line, and the  
 slenderness, I conceive, principally serveth  
 to make the Flie-rod long and light, easie  
 to be managed with one hand, and casteth  
 the Flie far, which are to me the conside-  
 rations chiefly to be regarded in a Flie  
 rod; for if you observe, the slender part  
 of the Rod ( if strained ) shoots forth its  
 length as if it were part of the Line, so that  
 the whole stress or strength of the Fish  
 born or sustained by the thicker part of  
 the Rod, which is no stronger than the  
 stronger end of such a Top as I did be-  
 fore

fore direct for the ground-rod: and you may prove what I say to be true, if you hang a Weight at the top of your Flie-rod, which you shall see ply and bend ( in the stiff and thick part ) more or less as the Weight is heavy or light. Having made this digression for the Cane, I return to the making up of the top, of which at the upper or small end I would have you to cut off about two foot or three quarters of a yard at most, and then piece neatly to the thick remaining part, a small shoot of Black-thorn or Crab tree ( gathered in the season as before ) fitted in a most exact proportion to the strength of the Hazel, and then cut off a small part of the slender end of the Black-thorn or Crab-tree, and lengthen out the same with a small piece of Whalebone, made round, smooth and taper, all which will make your Rod to be very long, gentle, and not so apt to break or stand bent as the Hazel, both which are great inconveniences, especially breaking, which will force you from your sport to amend your top.

But when you make a Rod to Angle for the Roach, you must not make the top so tender and gentle, as I have just before prescribed for the Flie, but you must either omit the Whalebone, or make it very stiff,

that so your Rod may exactly answer the motion of your hand, for the Roach being a Fish that only nibbleth, if you strike him not just in that very moment of his nibbling you will miss him, and a very tender top will fold and bend a little with a sudden jerk; I know the Roach will sometimes bite surely, but that is seldom, and usually a large one.

The making the Line.

2. To teach the way or manner how to make a Line, were time lost, it being so easie and ordinary; yet to make the Line well, handsome, and to twist the hair even and neat, makes the Line strong: For if one hair be long and another short, the short one receiveth no strength from the long one, and so breaketh, and then the other (as too weak) breaketh also. Therefore you must twist them slowly, and in the twisting, keep them from entangling together, which hindreth their right pleiting or bedding. Also I do not like the mixing of silk or thred with hair, but if you please you may (to make the Line strong) make it all of silk or thred, or hair, as strong as you please, and the lowest part of the smallest Lute or Viol strings, which I have proved to be very strong, but will quickly rot in the water, but you may help that in having new and strong to change the rotten

ten ones; but as to hair (the most usual matter whereof Lines are made) I like sorrel, white, and gray best; sorrel in muddy and boggy Rivers, both the other for clear waters: I never could find such vertue or worth in other colours, to give them so high praise as some do, yet if any other have worth in it, I must yield it to the pale watry green, and if you fancy that you may dye it thus; Take a pottle of Allom-water, a large handful of Marigolds, boyl them until a yellow scum arise, then take half a pound of green Copperas, and as much Verdigreece, beat them into a fine powder, put those with the hair into the Allom-water, set all to cool for twelve hours, then take out the hair and lay it to dry.

In making your Lines you must put a difference betwixt one for the ground-Angle, and a Line for the Flie-Rod, your Line for the artificial Flie may be stronger than the ground-Line for the *Trout*, you may also in making a Line for the artificial Flie, much help your self to cast it well, for if you make the uppermost link twelve or twenty hairs strong, and one or two hairs less in the next link, and so abate to that proportion in every link, untill you come to the Flie it self: although you want

a very slender, gentle, and light Rod; or in case you be a Learner and no accurate Artist in casting the Flie, yet by this means a very bungler will cast a Flie well; you may also this way use a very long Rod of six or seven yards to manage with both hands, unto which accustoming your self, you will in time angle as dextrously with such a Rod, as if you had a very light one to use with one hand, and if you fasten your Hook, and cannot come to loosen it, you need not fear losing above a jerk or two at most ( though you pull to break it ) in regard the Line is so strong at the upper end. Leave a bought or bout at both ends of the Line, the one to put it to, and take it from your Rod; The other to hang your lowest link upon, to which your hook is fastned, and so you may change your hook so often as you please.

The shape  
of the  
hook.

3. Let your hooks be long in the shank, and of a compass somewhat inclining to roundness, but the point must stand even and streight, and the bending must be in the shank, for if the shank be streight, the point will hang outward, though when set on it stand right, yet it will after the taking of a few Fish, cause the hair at the end of the shank to stand bent, and so ( by consequence ) the point of the hook to hang

hang directly upwards. When you set on your hook, do it with strong but small silk, and lay your hair upon the inside of the hook, for if on the outside, the silk will cut and fret it asunder, and to avoid the fretting of the hair by the hook on the inside, smooth all your hook upon a Whetstone, from the inside to the back of the hook slope-ways.

4. Get the best Cork you can without flaws or holes (the Quills and Pens are not able to bear the strong streams) bore the Cork through with a small hot Iron, then put it into a Quill of a fit proportion, neither too large to split it, or so small to slip out, but so as it may stick in very closely: then pare your Cork into the form of a Pyramide, or a small Pear, and into what bigness you please, then upon a small Grindstone, or with a Pumice make it complete, for you cannot pare it so smooth as you may grind it: have Corks of all sizes.

The float.

5. Get a Musquet or Carbine Bullet, make a hole through it, and put it in a strong twist, hang this on your hook to try the depth of the River or Pond.

To try the depth of the water.

6 Take so much Parchment as will be about four Inches broad, and five long, make the longer end round, then take so many

To carry your Lines or artificial Flies.



many pieces more as will make five or six partitions, sow them all together, leaving the side of the longer square open, to put your Lines, spare links, hooks ready fastned, and Flies ready made, into the several partitions; this will contain much ( lie flat and close in your Pocket ) in a little room.

To sharp-  
en the  
hook that  
is dulled.

7. Have also a little Whetstone about two Inches long, and one quarter square; its much better to sharpen your hooks than a Flie, which either will not touch a well-tempered hook or leave it rough but not sharp.

To carry  
Baits and  
other ne-  
cessaries.

8. Have a piece of a Cane for the Bob and Palmer, with several Boxes of divers sizes for your Hooks, Corks, Silk, Thred, Lead, Flies, &c.

9. Bags of Linnen and Woollen for all sorts of Baits.

For  
Worms,  
Cadbait.  
To land  
great fish  
when you  
want an  
assistant.

10. Have a small Pole, made with a loop at the end, like that of your Line, but much bigger, to which must be fastned a small Net to land great Fish, without which (if you want assistance) you will be in danger to lose them: or which is better, much lighter, and less troublefom, get a very large hook called a landing hook, with a screw at the end, to screw it into a socket fixed at the end of a pole, to strike



strike into the mouth or any part of the fish, and so draw them to land: you may also fit to the same socket and pole two other hooks, one sharp to cut weeds away, the other to pull out wood.

11. Your Pannier cannot be too light: I have seen some made of Osiers cleft into slender, long splinters, and so wrought up, which is very neat and exceeding light; you must ever carry with you store of Hooks, Lines, Hair, Silk, Thred, Lead, Links, Corks of all sizes, lest if you lose or break (as is usual) any of them, you be forced to leave your sport, and return for supplies.

Your  
Pannier.

## CHAP. II.

*Divers sorts of Angling: first, of the Fly.*

AS there are many kinds and sorts of Fish, so there are also various and different ways to take them; and therefore before we proceed to speak how to take each kind, we must say something in general of the several ways of Angling, as necessary to the better order of our work.

Angling therefore may be distinguished either into fishing by day, or (which some commend,

Several  
ways of  
Angling.

## The Experienc'd Angler :

commend, but the Cold and Dews caused me to disrelish that which impaired my health ) by night ; and these again are of two sorts, either upon the superficies of the water, or more or less under the surface thereof : of this sort is angling with the ground-Line, ( with lead, but no flote ) for the *Trout*, or with lead and flote for all sorts of fish or near the surface of the water for *Chub, Roach, &c.* or with a *Trowle* for the *Pike*, or a *Minnow* for the *Trout* ; of which more in due place.

That way of angling upon or above the water, is with *Cankers, Palmers, Caterpillers, Cadbait*, or any worm bred on herbs or trees ; or with Flies natural or artificial ; of these last ( viz. Flies ) shall be our first discourse, as comprising much of the other last named, and as being the most pleasant and delightful part of angling.

But I must here take leave to dissent from the opinion of such who assign a certain Fly to each month, whereas I am certain, scarce any one sort of fly doth continue its colour and vertue one month ; and generally all Flies last a much shorter time, except the stone-fly ( which some call the *May-fly* ) which is bred of the water-cricket, which creepeth out of the River, and gets under the stones by the water-side, and there

turneth

turneth to a Flie, and lieth under the stones; the *May-flie*, and the reddish Flie with ashy-gray wings. Besides, the season of the year may much vary the time of their coming in, a forward Spring bringeth them in sooner, and a late Spring the later: For Flies being creatures bred of putrefaction, do take life as the heat doth further or dispose the seminal virtue (by which they are generated) unto animation: and therefore all I can say as to time, is, that your own observation must be your best Instructor when is the time that each Flie cometh in and will be most acceptable to the Fish, of which I shall speak more fully in the next Section; further also I have observed that several Rivers and Soils produce several sorts of Flies, as the mossy, boggy Soils have one sort peculiar to them; the Clay-soil, gravelly, and mountainous Country and Rivers, and a mellow, light soil, different from them all; yet some sorts are common to all these sorts of Rivers and Soils, but they are few, and also differ somewhat in colour from those bred in another Soil.

In general, all sorts of Flies are very good in their season, for such Fish as will rise at the Flie, as *Salmon, Trout, Umber,*

What Fish  
rise best at  
the Flie,  
both natu-  
ral and ar-  
tificial.

*Umber, Grayling, Bleak, Chevin, Roach, Dace, &c.* Though some of these fish do love some Flies better than other ; except the Fish named, I know not any sort or kind that will (ordinarily and freely) rise at the Flie, though I know also some do Angle for *Bream* and *Pike* with artificial Flies, but I judg the labour lost, and the knowledge a needless curiosity ; those Fish being taken much easier ( especially the *Pike* ) by other ways : All the forementioned sorts of Fish will sometimes take the Flie much better at the top of the water, and at another time much better a little under the superficies of the water, and in this your own observation must be your constant and daily Instructor ( for if they will not rise to the top, try them under ) it not being possible ( in my opinion ) to give any certain rule in this particular : also the five sorts of Fish first named will take the artificial Flie, so will not the other, except an *Oakworm* or *Cadbait* be put on the point of the hook, or some other Worm suitable (as the Flie must be) to the season.

When Fish  
most covet  
such sort  
of flie.

You may also observe ( which my own experience taught me ) that the Fish never rise eagerly and freely at any sort of Flie, until that kind come to the waters side, for  
though

though I have often at the first coming in of some Flies ( which I judged they loved best ) gotten several of them, yet I could never find that they did much ( if at all ) value them, until those sorts of Flies began to flock to the Rivers sides, and were to be found on the Trees and Bushes there in great numbers ; for all sorts of Flies ( where ever bred ) do after a certain time come to the River's banks, ( I suppose to moisten their bodies dried with the heat ) and from the bushes and herbs there, skip and play upon the water, ( where the Fish lie in wait for them ) and after a short time die, and are not to be found ; though of some kinds there come a second sort afterwards, but much less, as the *Orange Flie* ; and when they thus flock to the River, then is the chiefeft season to angle with that Flie : And that you may the better find what Flie they covet most at that instant, do thus :

When you come first to the River in the morning, with your Rod beat upon the bushes or boughs which hang over the water, and by their falling upon the water, you will see what sorts of Flies are there in greatest numbers ; if divers sorts and equal in number, try them all, and you will quickly find which they most desire. Some-  
times

How to  
find what  
Flie the  
fish at that  
instant  
most de-  
fire.

times they change their Flie (but its not very usual) twice or thrice in one day ; but ordinarily they seek not for another sort of Flie, till they have for some days even glutted themselves with a former kind, which is commonly when those Flies die and go out. Directly contrary to our *London* Gallants, who must have the first of every thing, when hardly to be got, but scorn the same when kindly ripe, healthful, common and cheap : but the Fish despise the first, and covet when plenty, and when that sort grow old and decay, and another cometh in abundantly, then they change ; as if Nature taught them, that every thing is best in its own proper season, and not so desirable when not kindly ripe, or when through long continuance it beginneth to lose its native worth and goodness.

I shall add a few cautions and directions in the use of the natural Flie, and then proceed.

Directions  
in using  
the natural  
Flie.

1. When you Angle for *Chevin, Roch, Dace*, with the Flie, you must not move your Flie swiftly when you see the Fish coming towards it, but rather after one or two short and slow removes, suffer the Flie to glide gently with the stream towards the Fish ; or if in a standing or very slow water, draw the Flie slowly, and not

(not directly upon him, but) sloaping and side-wise by him, which will make him more eager lest it escape him; for if you move it nimbly and quick, they will not (being fish of slow motion) follow as the *Trent* will.

2. When *Chub, Roach, Dace*, shew themselves in a Sunshiny-day upon the top of the water, they are most easily caught with Baits proper for them; and you may choose from amongst them which you please to take.

3. They take an artificial flie with a *Cadbait* or *Oakworm* on the point of the Hook, and the *Oakworms*; when they shew themselves, it is better upon the water than under, or than the flie it self, and more desired by them.

## CHAP. IX.

### *Of the Artificial Flie.*

**B**UT here I must premise, that it is much better to learn how to make a flie by sight, than by any Paper-direction can possibly be expressed, in regard of the Terms of Art do in most parts of *England* differ, and also several sorts of flies are called by different names; some call

Of the artificial Flie.



the flie bred of the Water-cricket or Creeper, a *May-flie*, and some a *Stone-flie*, some call the *Cadbair-flie* a *May-flie*, and some call a short Flie of a sad golden green colour, with short brown wings, a *May-flie* : and I see no reason but all Flies bred in *May*, are properly enough called *May-flies*. Therefore except some one ( that hath skill ) would paint them, I can neither well give their names nor describe them, without too much trouble and prolixity ; nor, as I alledged, in regard of the variety of Soils and Rivers, describe the Flies that are bred and frequent each : But the Angler (as I before directed ) having found the Flie which the Fish at present affect, let him make one as like it as possibly he can, in colour, shape, and proportion : and for his better imitation let him lay the natural Flie before him. All this premised and considered, let him go on to make his Flie, which according to my own practice I thus advise :

How to  
make the  
artificial  
Flie several  
ways.

First, I begin to set on my Hook ( placing the hair on the inside of its shank with such coloured Silk as I conceive most proper for the Flie, beginning at the end of the hook, and when I come to that place which I conceive most proportionable for the Wings, then I place such coloured feathers



thers there, as I apprehend most resemble the Wings of the Flie, and set the points of the wings towards the head, or else I run the feathers (and those must be stript from the Quill or Pen, with part of it still cleaving to the feathers) round the hook, and so make them fast, if I turn the feathers round the hook, then I clip away those that are upon the back of the hook, that so (if it be possible) the point of the hook may be forced by the feathers (left on the inside of the hook) to swim upwards; and by this means I conceive the stream will carry your Flies wings in the posture of one flying; whereas if you set the points of the wings backwards, towards the bending of the hook, the stream (if the feathers be gentle as they ought) will fold the points of the wings in the bending of the hook, as I have often found by experience: After I have set on the wing, I go on so far as I judge fit, till I fasten all, and then begin to make the body, and the head last; the body of the Flie I make several ways, if the Flie be of one entire colour, then I take a Worsted thred or Moccado end, or twist wool or fur into a kind of thred, or wax a small slender silk thred, and lay wool, fur, &c. upon it, and then twist, and the materials

## The Experienced Angler :

will stick to it, and then go on to make my Flie small or large, as I please. If the Flie (as most are) be of several colours, and those running in circles round the Flie, then I either take two of these threds (fastning them first towards the bent of the Hook) and so run them round, and fasten all at the Wings, and then make the Head; or else I lay upon the Hook, wool, fur of *Hare, Dog, Fox, Bear, Cow, Hog* (which close to their bodies have a fine fur) and with a silk of the other colour bind the same wool or fur down, and then fasten all: Or instead of the silk running thus round the Flie, you may pluck the feather from one side of those long feathers which grow about a *Cock* or *Capons* neck or tail (which some call *Hackle*) then run the same round your Flie, from head to tail making both ends fast; but you must be sure to sute the feather answerable to the colour you are to imitate in the Flie; and this way you may counterfeit those rough Insects (which some call *Wool-beds*, because of their wool-like out-side, and rings of divers colours, I take them to be *Palmer Worms*) which the Fish much delight in. Let me add this only, that some Flies have forked tails, and some have horns, both which you must imitate with a slender hair fastned

fastned to the head or tail of your Flie, when you first set on your Hook, and in all things, as length, colour, as like the natural Flie as you can possibly. The Head is made after all the rest of the body, of silk or hair, as being of a more shining glossy colour, than the other materials, as usually the head of the Flie is more bright than the body, and is usually of a different colour from the body: Sometimes I make the body of the Flie with a *Peacocks* feather, but that is only one sort of Flie, whose colour nothing else that I could ever get would imitate, being the short, sad, golden, green, Flie I before mentioned, which I make thus; Take one strain of a *Peacocks* feather (or if that be not sufficient, then another) wrap it about the hook, till the body be according to your mind; if your Flie be of divers colours, and those lying long-ways from head to tail, then I take my Dubbing, and lay them on the hook long-waies one colour by another (as they are mixt in the natural Flie from head to tail) then bind all on, and make it fast with silk of the most predominant colour; and this I conceive is a more artificial way than is practised by many Anglers, who use to make such a Flie of one colour, and bind it

## The Experienced Angler :

on with silk, so that it looks like a Flie with round circles, but nothing at all resembles the Flie it is intended for; the head, horns, tail, are made as before. That you may the better counterfeit all sorts of Flies, get furs of all sorts and colours, you can possibly procure, as of *Bears* hair, *Foxes*, *Cows*, *Hogs*, *Dogs*, who next their bodies have a fine soft hair or fur. Moccado ends, Crewels, and dyed wood of all colours, with feathers of *Cocks*, *Capons*, *Hens*, *Teals*, *Mallards*, *Widgeons*, *Pheasants*, *Partridges*, the feather under the *Mallard*, *Teal* or *Widgeons*-wings, and about their tails, about a *Cock* or *Capons* neck and tail, of all colours; and generally of all Birds, *Kite*, *Hickwall*, &c. that you may make yours exactly of the colour with the natural Flie. And here I must give some cautions and directions, as for the natural Flie, and so pass on to Baits for angling at the ground. I have observed that very many make their Flie suitable to the most Orient colour ye see in the natural Flie, which is usually the back-part, and commonly it excelleth the belly in lustre and splendor, and so ye conceive ye imitate the Flie exactly, when it is not thing so, because the back-part is out of the fishes eye, and if ye fail of sport as u

suall

usually ye do, ye impute it to the want of the right flie, when as ye have not truly imitated the right colour of the flie, which the Fish chiefly see and regard, viz. the belly of the flie : Therefore

1. In making the artificial Flie, chiefly observe the belly of the Flie, for that colour the fish most take notice of, as being most in their eye.

Directions  
in making  
the artificial  
Flie.

2. When you try how to fit your colour of the Flie, wet your Fur, Hair, Wool, or Moccado, otherwife you will fail in your work ; for though when those materials are dry, they exactly sute the colour of the Flie, yet the water will alter most colours, and make them either brighter or darker.

3. Flies made for the *Salmon* are much better being made with four Wings, than if of two onely, and with six better than them of four ; and if behind each pair of wings you place a different colour for the body of the flie, it is much the better : and this in my judgement argueth that he loveth to have several flies on the hook at once, for the flie looketh as if it were divers flies together.

1. When you angle with the artificial flie, you must either fish in a River not fully cleared from some rain lately fallen, that

Caution  
for the use  
of the artificial  
Flie,

that had discoloured it ; or in a Moorish River discoloured by moss or bogs ; or else in a dark, cloudy day, when a gentle gale of wind moves the water ; but if the wind be high, yet so as you may guide your tools with advantage, they will rise in the plain Deeps, and then and there you will commonly kill the best Fish ; but if the wind be little or none at all, you must Angle in the swift streams.

2. You must keep your artificial flie in continual motion, though the day be dark, water muddy, and wind blow, or else the Fish will discern and refuse it.

3. If you Angle in a River that is mudded by rain, or passing through mosses or bogs, you must use a larger bodied Flie than ordinary ; which argues that in clear Rivers the Flie must be smaller, and this not being observed by some, hindreth their sport, and they impute their want of success to the want of the right Flie, when perhaps they have it, but made too large

Directions  
upon the  
water and  
colours.

1. If the water be clear and low, then use a small bodied Flie with slender wings,

2. When the water beginneth to clear after rain, and is of a brownish colour, then a red or Orange Flie.

3. If

3. If the day be clear, then a light-coloured Flie, with slender body and wings.

4. In dark weather as well as dark waters, your Flie must be dark.

5. If the water be of a Whey-colour or whitish, then use a black or brown Flie: yet these five last Rules do not always hold; for there is no general but admits of particular exceptions, though usually in clearest mountainous or hilly Rivers they do, or else I had altogether omitted them.

6. When you Angle with an artificial Flie, your Line may be twice the length of your Rod, except the River be much cumbered with wood and trees.

7. For every sort of Flie have three, one of a lighter colour, another sadder than the natural Flie, and a third of the exact colour with the Flie, to suite all waters and weathers as before.

8. I could never find (by any experience of mine own or other mens observation) that Fish would freely and eagerly rise at the artificial Flie, in any slow muddy River? by muddy Rivers I mean such Rivers, whose bottom or ground is slime or mud: for such as are mudded by rain (as I have already, and shall after -



afterwards further shew ) at some times and seasons I would choose to angle, yet in standing Meers or Loughs I have known them ( in a good wind ) to rise very well, but not so in slimy Rivers, either *Weever* in *Cheshire*, or *Sow* in *Stafford-shire*, &c. and others in *Warwick-shire*. and *Black-water* in *Ulster* ; in the last, after many trials, I could never find ( though in its best streams ) almost any sport, save at its influx into *Lough Neagh*, but there the working of the *Lough* makes it sandy ; and they will bite also near *Tome Shanes Castle*, *Mountjoy*, *Antrim*, &c. even to admiration ; yet sometimes they will rise in that River a little, but not comparable to what they will do in every little Lough, in any small gale of wind : And though I have often reasoned in my own thoughts to search out the true cause of this, yet I could never so fully satisfie my own judgment, so as to conclude any thing positively ; yet have taken up these two ensuing particulars as most probable.

Two conjectures  
ures why  
Fish rise  
not well  
at the artificial  
Flie in  
slimy Rivers.

1. I did conceive the depth of the Loughs might hinder the force of the Sunbeams from operating upon, or heating the mud, which in those Rivers ( though deep, yet not so deep by much as the Loughs ) I apprehend it doth, because in  
great



great droughts fish bite but little in any River, but nothing at all in slimy Rivers, in regard the mud is not cooled by the constant and swift motion of the River, as in gravelly or sandy Rivers, where (in fit seasons) they rise most freely, and bite most eagerly, save as before in droughts, notwithstanding at that season some sport may be had, (though not with the flie) whereas nothing at all will be done in muddy slow Rivers.

2. My second supposition was, Whether (according to that old received Axiom, *suo quaque simillima caelo*) the fish might not partake of the nature of the River, in which they are bred and live, as we see in men born in fenney, boggy, low, moist grounds, and thick air, who ordinarily want that present quickness, vivacity and activity of body and mind, which persons born in dry, hilly, sandy Soils and clear Air, are usually endued withall: And so the fish participating of the nature of muddy Rivers, which are ever slow, (for if they were swift, the stream would cleanse them from all mud) are not so quick, lively, and active, as those bred in swift, sandy or stony Rivers, and so coming to the flie with more deliberation, discern the same to be counterfeit,

feit, and forsake it : whereas on the contrary, in stony, sandy, swift Rivers (being more cold, the fish are more active, and so more hungry and eager, the stream and hand keeping the flie in continual motion, they snap the same up, without any pause, lest so desirable a morsel escape them.

9. You must have a very quick eye, a nimble rod and hand, and strike with the rising of the fish, or he constantly finds his mistake, and putteth out the hook again : I could never (my eye-sight being weak) discern perfectly where my flie was, the wind and stream carrying it so to and again, that the Line was never any certain direction or guide to me ; but if I saw any fish rise, I use to strike if I discerned it might be within the length of my Line.

10. Be sure in casting that your Flie fall first into the water, if the Line fall first, it scareth the fish, therefore draw it back, and cast again, that the flie may fall first. When you Angle in slow Rivers or still places with the artificial flie, cast your flie over cross the River, and let it sink a little in the water, and draw him gently back again, so as you break not the water, or raise any circles or motion in the water,  
and

and let the current of the River carry the flie gently down with the stream, and this way I have found the best sport in slow muddy Rivers with the artificial Flie.

The best way to angle with the *Cadbait*, is to fish with it on the top of the water as you do with the flie; it must stand upon the shank of the Hook, as doth the artificial flie (if it come into the bent of the Hook, the Fish will little, or not at all value it, nor if you pull the blew gut out of it) and to make it keep that place, you must, when you set on your Hook, fasten a Horse-hair or two under the silk, with the ends standing a very little out from under the silk, and pointing towards the Line, and this will keep it from sliding back into the bent: and thus used it is a most excellent Bait for a *Trout*. You may if you please place a small slender Lead upon the shank of your hook to sink the Bait where the River is not violently swift, and draw the *Cadbait* over the Lead, you may make the head of black silk, and the body of yellow wax; this you must be often raising from the bottom, and so let it sink again.

How to  
Angle  
with the  
*Cadbait*.

You may imitate the *Cadbait*, by making the body of *Shammy*, the head black silk:

silk: in a muddy water the Trout will not take the Cadbait, you must therefore only use him in clear waters.

I might here insert several sorts of flies, with the colours that are used to make them; but for the reasons before given, that their colours alter in several Rivers and Soils, and also because though I name the colours, yet its not easie to choose that colour by any description, except so largely performed as would be over-large, and swell this small piece beyond my intended conciseness; and I suppose the former directions ( which are easie and short ) if rightly observed, are full enough and sufficient for making and finding out all sorts of flies in all Rivers. I shall only add, that the *Salmon* flies must be made with Wings standing one behind the other, whether two or four; also he delights in the most gaudy and orient colours you can choose; the Wings I mean chiefly, if not altogether, with long tails and wings.

## C H A P. IV.

*Of Angling at the Ground.*

NOW we are come to the second sort of Angling (*viz.*) Under the water, which if it be with the ground-Line for the *Trout*, then you must not use any flote at all, only a Plumb or Lead, which I would wish might be a small Bullet, the better to rowl on the ground; and it must also be lighter or heavier, as the stream runneth swift or slow, and you must place it about nine inches or a foot from the Hook, the Lead must run upon the ground, and you must keep your Line as streight as possible; yet by no means so as to raise the Lead from the ground, but do not over-lead your Line by any means; and if you angle amongst Weeds, place your Lead upon the shank of the hook, it will not be so apt to intangle upon them: your top must be very gentle, that the fish may more easily, and (to himself) insensibly run away with the Bait, and not be scared with the stiffness of the Rod; and if you make your top of Blackthorn and Whalebone as I before directed, it will conduce much to this purpose: Neither

Ground-  
angling.

ther must you strike so soon as you feel the fish bite, but slack your Line ( a little ) that so he may more securely swallow the Bait and hook himself, which he will sometimes do, especially if he be a good one; however the least jerk hooks him, and indeed you can scarce strike too easily. Your Tackle must be very fine and slender, and so you will have more sport than if you had strong Lines ( which fright the Fish ) but the slender Line is easily broke with a small jerk. If you use a Line much longer than your Rod, and fish with a Garden-worm without float or lead, drawing the same up and down the stream as you do the *Cad-bait*, you will take more *Trouts* than with Lead, chiefly if the day be clear. The Morning and Evening are best for the ground-Line for a *Trout* in clear weather and water, but in cloudy weather or muddy water, you may Angle at ground all day.

Great Fish ( especially *Trouts* ) feed most in the Night if it be dark, for they are very wary and circumspect to avoid danger whilst they are gathering their food ( as generally all wild Creatures are ) and know the times and seasons most fit for them to feed, and when they may most securely range abroad, even as the  
Buck

Buck when in season and fat, lodgeth all day and grazeth in the Night, for the greater Trouts are most bold and eager in the darkeſt Nights, and then they bite not the next Day enſuing, except it prove dark and windy, and only then a little in the Afternoon.

2. You may alſo in the Night angle for the *Trout* with two great Garden-worms, hanging as equally in length as you can place them on your hook; caſt them from you as you would caſt the Flie; and draw them to you again upon the top of the water, and ſuffer them not to ſink; therefore you muſt uſe no Lead this way of Angling: you may hear the *Fish* riſe, give ſome time for him to gorge your Bait, as at the ground, then ſtrike gently. If he will not take them at the top, add ſome Lead, and try at the ground, as in the day-time. When you feel him bite, order your ſelf as in day angling at the ground: Uſually the beſt *Trouts* bite in the Night, and will riſe in the ſtill Deeps, but not ordinarily in the ſtream. Or you may uſe a black Snail, or with a little black Velvet may counterfeit one, this is an excellent way for a *Trout* in the Night, as the Snail is for a *Chub* alſo early in the Morning.

Night  
Angling.

D

3. You



Angling  
for the  
*Trout* with  
a *Menow*.

3. You may angle also with a *Menow* for the *Trout*, which you must put on your hook thus; First, put your hook through the very point of his lower Chap, and draw it quite through, then put your hook in at his mouth, and bring the point to his tail, then draw your line streight, and it will bring him into a round compass, and close his mouth that no water get in, which you must avoid, or you may stitch up his mouth. Or you may (when you set on your hook) fasten some bristles under the silk, leaving the points above a straws breadth and half, or almost half an inch standing out towards the line, which will keep him from slipping back. You may also imitate the *Menow* as well as the *flie*, but it must be done by an Artist with the Needle.

The use of  
the Swivel.

You must also have a Swivel or Turn, placed about a yard or more from your hook; you need no Lead on your line, you must continually draw your bait up the stream near to the top of the water.

If you miss  
a *Trout*, how  
to take  
her after-  
wards.

If you strike a large *Trout*, and she either break hook or line, or get off, then near to her hold (if you can discover it) or the place you struck her, fix a short stick in the water, & with your Knife loose a small piece of the rind, so as you may lay your line in it, and yet the bark be close enough



to keep your line in that it slip not out, nor the stream carry it away; bait your hook with a Garden or Lobworm (let your hook and line be very strong) let the bait hang a foot from the stick, then fasten the other end of your line to some stick or bough in the Bank, and within one hour you may be sure of her if all your tackle hold.

The next way of Angling is with a *Trowle* for the *Pike*, which is very delightful, you may buy your *Trowle* ready made, therefore I shall not trouble my self to describe it, only let it have a winch to wind it up withall. For this kind of Fish your tackle must be strong, your Rod must not be very slender at the top, where you must place a small slender ring for your line to run through, let your line be silk at least two yards next the hook, and the rest of strong Shoemakers thred, your hook double, & strongly armed with wire for above a foot, then with a probe or needle you must draw the wire in at the fishes mouth and out at the tail, that so the hook may lie in the mouth of the fish, and both the points on either side; upon the shank of the hook fasten some lead very smooth, that it go into the fishes mouth and sink her with the head downward, as though she had been playing on the top of the water, and were

How to  
angle for  
the *Pike*  
with a  
*Trowle* and  
several o-  
ther ways.

returning to the bottom ; your bait may be small *Roch, Dace, Gudgeon, Loch,* or a frog sometimes : your hook thus baited, you must tie the tail of the fish close and fast to the wire, or else withdrawing to and again, the fish will rend off the hook, or which I judge neater, with a needle and strong thred, stich through the fish on either side the wire and tie it very fast : all being thus fitted, cast your fish up and down in such places as you know *Pikes* frequent, observing still that he sink some depth before you pull him up again. When the *Pike* cometh ( if it be not sunk deep ) you may see the water move, at least you may feel him, then slack your line and give him length enough to run away to his hold, whither he will go directly, and there pouch it, ever (beginning as you may observe ) with the head, swallowing that first, thus let him lie untill you see the line move in the water, and then you may certainly conclude he hath pouched your bait, & rangeth abroad for more, then with your trowl wind up your line till you think you have it almost streight, then with a smart jerk hook him, and make your pleasure to your content. Some use no Rod at all, but hold the line on links on their hand, using lead and float : others use a very great hook

hook with the hook at the tail of the fish, and when the *Pike* cometh, then they strike at the first pull; others use to put a strong string or thred at the mouth of the bait and out at one of the gills, and so over the head and in at the other gill, and so tye the bait to the hook, leaving a little length of the thred or string betwixt the fish and the hook; that so the *Pike* may turn the head of the bait the better to swallow it, and then as before, after some pause strike. Some use to tye the bait-hook and line to a bladder or bundle of flags or bull-rushes, fastening the line very gently in the cleft of a small stick, to hold the bait from sinking more than ( its allowed length ) half a yard, and the stick must be fastened to the bladder or flags, to which the line being tyed that it might easily unfold and run to its length, and so give the *Pike* liberty to run away with the bait, and by the bladder or flags recover their line again. You must observe this way to turn off your bait with the wind or stream, that they may carry it away, or some use ( for more sport, if the *Pike* be a great one ) to tye the same to the foot of a goose, which the *Pike* ( if large ) will sometimes pull under the water.

When you fish for the *Pike* at Snap, you  
D 3 must

must give him leave to run a little, then strike, but be sure strike the contrary way to that which he runneth : a double spring hook I conceive principally, if not only useful in this way of angling, and much to be preferred before all other hooks ; for the *Pike* will usually hold the bait so fast in his teeth that you may fail to pull it out of his mouth, and also strike him ; whereas with a spring hook, though he hold it never so fast, the wire will draw through the bait, and so the spring will open, and you will very frequently hook him on the outside of his mouth. I am opinionated, that angling with the Trowle is a surer, at least a more easie way for a learner to practise ( who wants an instructor ) than the Snap ; beside, I judge the snap chiefly useful to take a *Pike*, which often pricking with the Trowle hath made wary and cunning ( for one that hath not been scared, will swallow your bait boldly ) such a one is best taken at Snap : this way of angling put on your bait thus, make a hole with the point of your hook or probe in the fishes side as near the middle as you can, put in your armed wire, and draw it out at the mouth, and with a needle and thred sew up the fishes mouth. Others use the probe to draw the arming wire under the skin only

( not

(not the ribs by any means) and out at the bone behind the gills, then again under the gills, and out at the mouth; this latter way I approve as much the better; because there is only the skin to hinder the drawing and piercing of the hook, whereas the former way, if the *Pike* hold fast (as commonly he doth) all the flesh on the outside of the fish will be drawn into a heap or lump so thick, that the hook (except very large) can hardly reach through it to pierce the *Pikes* chaps.

1. After he hath taken your bait, if he move slowly, and make no stop, give him time, and you will seldom miss him.

2. Or if he lie still after he hath taken the bait (as sometimes he will) gently move your hand to try which way his head lieth if you cannot discover that, then strike directly upwards, otherwise we may (instead of hooking him) pluck the bait out of his mouth.

3. If he take it upon the top of the water and lie still, you see which way his head lieth and may order your self accordingly.

4. Observe that at the Snap your tackle must be much stronger than for the Trowl, in regard you must strike much more forcibly.

5. At snap you must give two lusty jerks

jerks one after the other, and be sure you ever strike contrary to the way his head lyeth, lest you pull the bait from him only.

6. Fasten your swivel to the end of your Line, and hook your armed wire upon the swivel.

7. For the Snap, cast a piece of lead hollow and so wide as to go over the wire, and the end of the hook which you draw within the Fishes mouth, let it lie there to sink his head downward, make it so rough that it slip not out, or sew up the fishes mouth; I like this way much better than to place the lead upon the line (as some use) for the lead will often slip further, and also entangle the bait and line together.

8. Both with Trowle and at Snap, close at the gills cut away one of the fins, and also behind the vent another on the contrary side, the bait will play the better.

9. In casting with trowling, or at snap, be sure to raise your hand a little when you see the bait ready to fall into the water, this will prevent that the bait dash not violently into the water, in its fall, which I presume sometimes frights the *Pike* (though he be a bold fish) when it falls behind, and near to him.

10. Make your lead for the Trowle  
four-

four-square and much thicker and shorter than most use, the square will keep the hook in the same place as you set it, and the thick short lead sinks him with his head downward, so that he will not shoot sloop-wise, as he doth when the lead is long.

11. Joyn your wire links together with a steel ring, the bait will play and sink better, if it lye only in the baits mouth, it will not intangle in the line so often.

12. A large bait doth more invite the *Pike*, but the lesser takes him more surely, as soonest gorged, and the hook certainly taken into his mouth both at Snap and Trowel.

13. Use a large white *Menow* put on with the hook in his mouth, angle with him for a *Pike*, as you do for a *Trout*, and let your hook be small, use not a great hook with a small bait.

*How to use the Menow for a Pike.*

Get a single hook slender and long in the shank, let it resemble the shape of a Shepherd's crook, put lead upon it, as thick near the bent as will go into the *Menow's* mouth, place the point of the hook directly up the face of the fish, let the  
Rod



Rod be as long as you can handsomely manage, with a line of the same length cast up and down, and manage it as when you trowle with any other bait ; if when the *Pike* hath taken your bait he run to the end of the line before he hath gorged it, do not strike but hold still only, and he will return back and swallow it : but if you use that bait with a Trowl, I rather prefer it before any other bait that I know.

Angling  
for *Roches*  
at *London*  
*Bridge*.

In the Months of *June* and *July*, a sort of exceeding large and very excellent *Roches*, haunt about *London-Bridge* ( in other Months none of that sort are there to be found ) and they Angle for them with this bait and in the manner following, *viz.* They take a strong Cord, at the end of it they fasten a weight of Lead, about two or three pounds ; then about a foot above the Lead they make a Pack-thred of ten or twelve fathom long fast to the Cord, and unto the Pack-thred, ( at due distances ) they make ten or twelve strong links of hair with Roch-hooks at them, baited with a *Periwinckle*, which they gather in the *Thames* in shells, they break the shells, and take the *Periwinckle* whole, ( for if broken its spoiled ) and that part which sticks



sticks to the shell they cut off from the Fish and leave it sticking to the shell, and bait their Hooks with the other, ( I suppose a small white Snail may serve in want of a *Periwinkle*, it's like it ) and holding the strong Cord in their hands, the biting of the Fish draweth the Packthread, and that the Cord, whereby they feel the Fishes biting, and so order themselves according as their own judgments dictate, and sometimes draw up two, three, or more *Roches* at once.

There are two ways of fishing for *Eels*, proper and peculiar to that Fish alone ; the first is termed by some, *Brogling* for *Eels*, which is thus, Take a short strong Rod, and exceeding strong Line, with a little compassed but strong Hook, which you must bait with a large well scoured Red-worm, then place the end of the Hook very easily in the cleft of a stick, that it may very easily slip out ; with this stick and hook thus baited, search for holes under stones, Timber, Roots, or about Floud-gates ; if there be a good *Eel*, give her time and she will take it, but be sure she hath gorged it, and then you may conclude, if your Tackling or hold fail not, she is your own.

*Brogling*  
for *Eels*.

The

Bobbing  
for *Eels*.

The other way is called *Bobbing* for *Eels*, which is thus, Take the largest Garden-worms, scour them well, and with a Needle run a very strong thred or silk through them from end to end, take so many as that at last you may wrap them about a Board ( for your hand will be too narrow ) a dozen times at least, then tye them fast with the two ends of the thred or silk, that they may hang in so many long bouts or hanks, then fasten all to a strong Cord, and something more than a handful above the Worms fasten a plumb of Lead of about three quarters of a pound, and then you make your Cord sure to a long and strong Pole; with these Worms thus ordered you must fish in a muddy water, and you will feel the *Eels* tug strongly at them; when you think they have swallowed them as far as they can, gently draw up your Worms and *Eels*, and when you have them near the top of the water, hoist them amain to land; and thus you may take three or four at once, and good ones if there be store.

But before I proceed to give you each sort of Bait for every kind of Fish, give me leave to add a few Cautions and directions for the ground-  
Line

Line and Angling, as I did for the natural and artificial Flie, and so we shall go on.

1. When you Angle at ground, keep your Line as straight as possible, suffering none of it to lie in the water, because it hindereth the nimble jerk of the Rod; but if (as sometimes it will happen) you cannot avoid, but some little will lie in the water, yet keep it in the stream above your flote, by no means below it.

Directions  
in Angling  
at the  
ground.

2. When you Angle at the ground for small Fish, put two Hooks to your Line fastned together thus; Lay the two Hooks together, then draw the one shorter than the other by nine Inches, this causeth the other end to over-reach as much as that is shorter at the Hooks, then turn that end back to make a bought or boughte, and with a water-knot (in which you must make both the links to fasten) tie them so as both links may hang close together, and not come out at both ends of the knot; upon that link which hangeth longest, fasten your Lead near a foot above the Hook, put upon your Hooks two different Baits, and so you may try (with more ease and less time) what Bait the Fish love best: and also very often  
(as

(as I have done) take two Fish at once with one Rod: You have also by this Experiment one Bait for such as feed close upon the ground, as *Gudgeon, Flounder, &c.* and another for such as feed a little higher, as *Roach, Dace, &c.*

3. When you Angle at ground for the *Salmon*, put three or four Lob-worms well scoured on your Hook at once, and order your self as when you Angle at ground for a *Trout*.

4. Some use to lead their Lines heavily, and to set their Cork about a foot or more from the end of the Rod, with a little Lead to buoy it up, and thus in violent swift streams they avoid the offence of a flote, and yet perfectly discern the biting of the Fish, and so order themselves accordingly; but this hath its inconvenience (*viz.*) The lying of the Line in the water.

5. Give all Fish time to gorge the bait, and be not over-hasty, except you Angle with such tender baits as will not endure nibbling at, but must upon every touch be struck at (as *Sheeps-blood, Flies*, which are taken away at the first pull of the Fish) and therefore inforce you at the first touch to try your fortune.

Now

Now we are to speak next of Baits  
 more particularly proper for every Fish,  
 wherein I shall observe this method; first,  
 to name the Fish, then the Baits (accord-  
 ing as my Experience hath proved them)  
 grateful to the Fish, and to place them as  
 near as I can in such order as they come in  
 season, though many of them are in season  
 at one instant of time, and equally good.  
 I would not be understood, as if when a  
 new Bait cometh in, the old one were an-  
 tiquated and useless: for I know the  
 Worm lasteth all the year, the Flie all  
 Summer, one sort of bob all Winter,  
 the other under Cow-dung in June  
 and July, but I intimate that some are  
 found when others are not *in rerum natu-*  
*ra.*

## C H A P. V.

*Of all sorts of Baits for each kind of Fish  
and how to find and keep them.*

Baits for  
the Sal-  
mon.

To pre-  
vent break-  
ing hold in  
tender-  
mouth'd  
Fishes.

1. **T**HE *Salmon* taketh the artificial flie very well, but you must use a Trowl (as for the *Pike*) or he being a strong Fish will hazard your Line, except you give him length; his Flies must be much larger than you use for other Fish, the Wings very long (two or four) behind one another, with very long tails; his chiefeft ground-bait a great Garden or Lob-worm, he spawneth about *Michaelmas*: when you strike him, he usually falleth to plunge and leap, but doth not ordinarily endeavour to run to the end of the Line as the *Trout* will; young *Salmons* under a quarter of a yard long, have tender mouths, so as they are apt to break their hold: to obviate which inconvenience, I have known some that use to fasten two hooks together, in like manner as some double *Pike* hooks lately used in Trowling are made, not with the points opposite to one another, but about a quarter of a Circle from each other, and on them they make their Flie, that if one Hook break hold, the other may not fail.

2. The

2. The *Trout* takes all sorts of Worms, especially *Brandlings*; all sorts of Flies, *Menow*, young *Frogs*, *Marshworm*, *Dock-worm*, *Flag-worm*; all sorts of *Cadbait*, *Bob*, *Palmer*s, *Caterpillars*, *Gentles*, *Wasps*, *Hornets*, *Dorrs*, *Bees*, *Grashoppers*, *Cankers*, and *Bark-worm*; he is a ravenous greedy Fish, and loveth a large Bait at ground, and you must fit him accordingly: to that end take two large Garden-worms well scowred, cut them into equal halves, put them on your Hook, this is a very good Bait.

When you Angle with a *Grashopper* for *Trout* or *Grayling*, you must Lead your Hook upon the Shank with a very slender plate of Lead made narrowest and slenderest at the bent of the Hook, that the Bait may the better come over it; let the *Grashopper* be a large one, then draw him over the Lead, after put a lesser or a *Cadbait* on the point, and keep your Bait in continual motion; lifting it up, and sinking again, pull off the *Grashoppers* uppermost Wings: In *March*, and the beginning of *April*, use the *Tagtail*, which is a Worm much of the colour of a mans hand, with a yellow tagg on his tail about half an Inch long, you may find them in Marled Lands and Meadows in the Morning in calm weather,

E

not



not cold, or after a shower.

The *Trout* spawneth about *Michaelmas*, he is a very nimble quick Fish, and will strive long and vigorously for his life, will run amongst Weeds, Roots, or any thing that may entangle or break your Line.

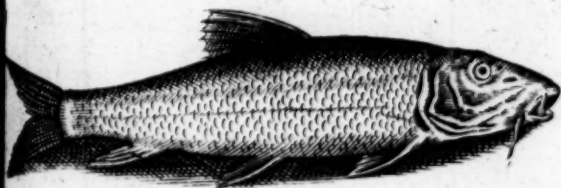
3. The *Umber* is generally taken with the same Baits as the *Trout*, especially *Flies*, *Cadbait*, *Barkworms*, and *Palmers*, artificial or natural *Flies* or *Palmers* : He is an eager Fish, biteth freely, and will rise often at the same *Flie*, if you prick him not.

The *Umber* is a very nimble Fish, hath a very tender mouth, so that he is most usually lost by breaking his hold, which to prevent, make tryal of that way before directed for taking young *Salmons*.





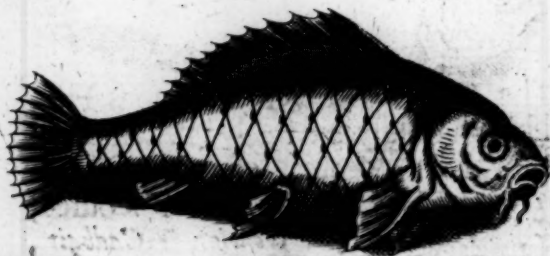
The *Barbel* bites best at great red Worms well scowred in Moss, at Cheese and several sorts of Pastes, and *Gentles*; he spawns in *April*, is a wary subtle strong Fish, will struggle long, and except you manage him dextrously, or that your Line be very strong, he will endanger to break it.



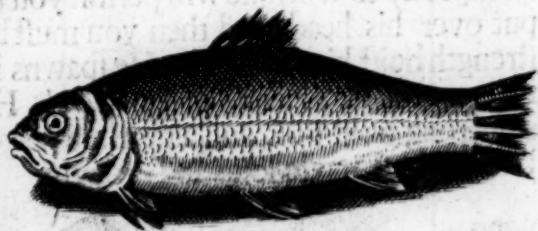
The *Pearch* is a very ravenous Fish, and biteth boldly and freely: he taketh all sorts of Earth-worms, especially *Brandlings* and *Lobworms*, if well scoured, *Bobs*, *Oakworms*, *Gentles*, *Cadbait*, *Wasps*, *Dores*, *Menow*, *Colewort-worms*, and often any Bait save the *Flie*: He

## The Experienced Angler :

spawneth in *February* or *March*, and if a large strong Fish, will contend long and hard for his life.



4. *Carp* and *Tench* love the largest red Worms, the *Tench* especially, if they smell much of *Tar*; to which end you may some small time before you use them, take so many as you will use at that time, and put them by themselves in a little *Tar*, but let them not lie long, lest it kill them; Paste also of all sorts made with strong-scented Oyls, *Tar*, *Bread-grain* boyled soft, *Cadbait*, *Gentles*, *Marsh-worm*, *Flay-worm* especially, feed much and often for these Fish. *Carp* spawneth in *May* and *June* usually; and if when you strike him you do not give him play, he will break all: he is a strong Fish, will struggle long and stoutly.



5. The *Pike* taketh all sorts of Baits, (save the *Flie*) *Gudgeon*, *Roches*, *Dace*, *Loaches*, young *Frogs* in Summer, or a *Smelt* if fresh and sweet and well fastned on the Hook, for it is a tender Fish, and will (if not carefully ordered) quickly break in pieces, but I have not known this Bait used higher than where it doth ebb and flow; yet higher than the salt-water floweth I have seen it practised with good success.

A young *Pickereel* or *Parial* *Jasen* or *Trout*, is a good Bait to trowl with as you can use; you may halter him thus, Fasten a strong Line with a snare at the end of it to the Pole, which if you go circumspectly to work, he will permit you to put over his head, and then you must by strength hoist him to land: He spawns in *February* the latter end, or in *March*, He is a strong bold Fish, and a ravenous eager biter, will struggle long and strongly.



6. *Eels*, take great read Worms, *Beef*, *Wasps*, Guts of *Fowls*, and *Menow*: bait Night-hooks for him with small *Roches*, the Hook must lie in the mouth of the Fish, as for the *Pike*; this way takes the greatest *Eels*.



7. The *Gudgeon* and *Bleak* take the smallest red worms, *Cadbait*, *Gentles*, *Wasps*, he spawneth about the beginning of *May*. The *Bleak* takes the natural or artificial *Flie*, especially in the Evening.

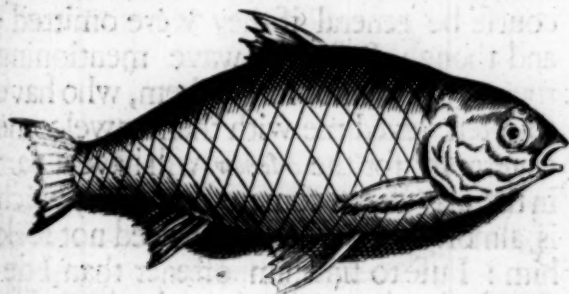
The *Ruff* taketh the same Baits as the *Pearch*, save that you must have lesser Worms, he being a smaller Fish.

8. *Roch* and *Dace*, small worms, *Cadbait*, Flies, Bobs, Sheeps blond, small white Snails, all sorts of worms bred on herbs or trees, *Paste*, *Wasps*, *Gnats*, *Cherries* and *Lipberries*: the *Dace* or *Dare* doth spawn about the middle of *March*, and the *Roch* about the middle of *May*; they are very easily taken and with little trouble.

8. The *Bleak* is an eager fish, and takes the same baits as the *Roch*, only they must be less: you may angle for him with as many hooks on your line at once, as you can conveniently fasten on it.

9. *Chevin*, all sorts of earth worms, Bob, *Menow*. Flies of all sorts, *Cadbait*, all sorts of worms bred on herbs and trees, especially *Oak-worms*, young *Frogs*, *Cherries*, *Wasps*, *Dorrs*, *Bees*, *Grashopper* at the top of the water, *Cheese*, *Grain*, *Beetles*, a great brown Flie that lives on the *Oak* like a *Scarabee*, black Snails, their bellies slit that the white appear; he loveth a large bait, as a *Wasp*, *Colwort-worm*, and then a *Wasp* altogether. The *Chevin* loveth to have several flies, and of divers sorts at once on the hook; he loveth also to have several sorts of baits at one time on the hook together; as a *Wasp*, a young *Dorr* or *Humble-bee*, when his legs and wings

wings are a little grown forth, or a *Flie*, a *Caddis* or *Oak-worm* together; or the worm bred on a Crab-tree, with one or more of the other baits. The Pith or Marrow in the bone of an Ox back, take it out carefully, and be very tender in taking off the tough outward skins, but be sure you leave the inward and tender white skin safe and untouched, or your labour is lost: this is an excellent bait for a *Chevin* all winter long. The *Chevin* spawneth in *March*, is a strong fish but not very active, for after one or two turns he presently yieldeth, if he be a very large one: but the lesser, which are about a foot or fourteen inches long, will more endanger your line than one of twenty inches or more, for he will strive longer.



11. Bream



11. *Bream* loveth red worms, especially those that are got at the root of a great Dock, it lieth wrapped up in a knot or round Clue: *Paste, Flag-worms, Wasps, Green-flies, Butter-flies, a Grasshopper* his legs cut off; he spawneth in *June* or beginning of *July*, is easily taken, for after one or two gentle turns, he falleth upon one side, and so is drawn to land with ease.

12. *Flounder, Shad, Suant, Thwait, and Mullet*, love red Worms of all sorts, *Wasps* and *Gentles*.

As for the *Menow Loach, Bulhead, or Millers-thumb*, being usually Childrens recreation; I once proposed to have omitted them wholly, but considering they often are baits for better Fish, as *Trout, Pike, Eele, &c.* Neither could this Discourse be general if they were omitted; and though I should wave mentioning them, yet I cannot forget them, who have so often vexed me with their unwelcome eagerness, for the *Menow* will have a part in the play if you come where he is, which is almost every where, you need not seek him: I use to find him oftener than I desire, only deep still places he least frequents of any, and is not over curious in his baits, any thing will serve that he can swallow,

swallow, and he will strain hard for what he cannot gorge; but chiefly loveth the smallest red Worms, *Cadbait*, Worms bred on Herbs or Trees, and *Wasps*.



The *Loach* and *Bulhead* are much of the same diet, but their principal bait is the smallest red Worms.



Having

## The Experienced Angler :

Several  
sorts of  
Pastes.

Having spoken before of Pastes, I shall now shew you how to make the same ; and though there be as many kinds as men have fancies, yet I esteem these best.

1. Take the tenderest part of the leg of a young Rabbet, Whelp or Catling, as much Virgins wax and Sheeps Suet, beat them in a Mortar till they be perfectly incorporated, then with a little clarified Hony temper them before the Fire into a Paste.

2. Sheeps Kidney Suet, as much Cheefe, fine Flower or Manchet, make it into a Paste, soften it with clarified Hony.

3. Sheeps blood, Cheefe, fine Manchet, clarified Honey, make all into a Paste.

4. Cherries, Sheeps blood, Saffron, and fine Manchet, make all into a Paste.

5. Take the fattest oldest Cheefe and the strongest of the rennet you can get, fine Wheat flower, and Anniseed water (and if you make it for a *Chub* add some reisted bacon) beat all exceeding well into a Paste.

6. Take the fattest old Cheefe and strongest of the rennet, Mutton Kidney Suet, and Turmerick, reduced into a fine powder, work all together into a Paste, and add of the Turmerick untill the Paste become

become a very lovely yellow colour ; this is excellent for *Chevin*.

In *September* and all *Winter*, when you angle for *Chub*, and large fish, as *Carp*, *Bream*, &c. with *Paste*, you must make your bait as large as a good *Nutmeg*.

You may add to any *Paste* *Coculus India*, *Assa foetida*, *Oyl* of *Polypody* of the *Oak*, of *Lignum vita*, of *Ivie*, or the gum of *Ivie* dissolved : I judge there is vertue in these *Oyles*, and gum especially, which I would add to all *Pastes* I make ; as also a little *Flax* to keep the *Paste* that it wash not off the hook.

## CHAP. VI.

To keep your Baits.

1. **P**aste will keep very long, if you put *Virgin wax* and clarified *Honey* into it, and stick well on the hook if you beat *Cotton-wool* or *Flax* into it, when you make your *Paste*.

2. Put your worms into very good long *Moss*, whether white, red, or green, I matter not ; wash it well, and cleanse it from all earth and filth, wring it very dry, then put your *Moss* and worms into

into an earthen Pot, cover it close that they crawl not out, set it in a cool place in Summer, and in Winter in a warm place, that the Frost kill them not: every third day in Summer change your Moss, once in the week in Winter, the longer you keep them before you use them, the better. Clean scowring your Worms makes them clearer, redder, tougher, and to live long on the Hook, and to keep colour, and therefore more desirable to the Fish: A little *Bole-Armoniack* put to them will much further your desire, and scower them in a short time: Or you may put them all Night in water, & they will scower themselves, but will be weak; but a few hours in good Moss will recover them. But lest your Worms die, you may feed them with crums of Bread and Milk, or fine Flour and Milk, or the Yelk of an Egg and sweet Cream coagulated over the fire, give them a little and often; If you take the strongest sweet Wort you can get (in which there hath been no Hops) wet your Moss well with the same, and over night put so many Worms into that Moss as you intend to use the next day, and I suppose the Fish will bite the better at them, but they must not lie over long in the Moss thus wet, in regard it will much swell them, and in  
time

time spoyle them; sometimes also put to them earth cast out of a Grave, the newer the Grave the better, I mean the shorter time the party hath been buried, you will find the Fish will exceedingly covet them after this earth, and here you may gather what Gum that is, which *J. D.* in his *Secrets of Angling* calleth *Gum of life*.

3. You must keep all other sorts of Worms with the leaves of those Trees and Herbs on which they are bred, renewing the Leaves often in a day, and put in fresh for the old ones: The Boxes you keep them in must have a few small holes to let in air.

4. Keep *Gentles* or *Maggots* with dead flesh, Beasts Livers or Suet, cleanse or scower them in Meal or Bran which is better; you may breed them by pricking a Beasts Liver full of holes, hang it in the Sun in Summer time, set an old course Barrel or small Firkin with Clay and Bran in it, into which they will drop, and cleanse themselves in it.

How to  
breed  
*Gentles*.

5. There are two, some say three sorts of *Cadbait*, the one bred under stones that lye hollow in shallow Rivers or small Brooks, in a very fine gravelly case or husk, these are yellow when ripe; the other in old Pits, Ponds, or slow running Rivers

*Cadbait*  
his kinds

Rivers or Ditches, in cases or husks of Straw, sticks or Rushes, these are green when ripe; both are excellent for a *Trout*, used as before is directed, & for most sorts of small Fish. The green sort, which is bred in Pits, Ponds or Ditches, may be found in *March* before the other yellow ones come in; the other yellow ones come in season with *May* or the end of *April*, and go out in *July*: a second sort, but smaller, come in again in *August*.

Cadbait.

6. *Cadbait* cannot endure the wind and cold, therefore keep them in a thick woollen Bag, with some Gravel amongst them, wet them once a day at least if in the house, but often in the hot weather; when you carry them forth, fill the bag full of water, then hold the mouth close, that they drop not out, and so let the water run from them; I have thus kept them three weeks: Or you may put them into an earthen Pot full of water, with some Gravel at the bottom, and take them forth into your bag as you use them.

Bobs two  
sorts.

7. Yellow Bobs are also of two sorts, the one bred in mellow light soils, and gathered after the Plough when the Land is first broken up from Grazing, and are in season in the Winter till *March*; the other is bred under Cowdung, hath a red head; and



and these are in season in the Summer only : scower them in Bran, or dry Moss, or Meal.

8. The spawn of some Fish is a good bait, to be used at such time as that Fish spawneth, some days before they spawn they will bite eagerly ; if you take one that is full bellied, take out the spawn, boyl it so hard as to stick on your hook, and so use it ; or not boil it at all : the spawn of *Salmon* is best of all sorts of spawn.

Spawn  
of Fish.

9 I have observed, that *Chevin, Roach, Dace*, bite much better at the *Oak-worm*, ( or any worm bred on herbs or trees ) especially if you angle with the same (when they shew themselves ) at the top of the water ( as with the natural flie ) than if you use it under ; for I have observed, that when a gale of wind shaketh the trees, the worms fall into the water, and presently rise and flote on the top, where I have seen the Fish rise at them as at flies, which taught me this experience, and indeed they sink not, till tost and beaten by the stream, and so they dye, and lose their colour, and then the fish (as you may see by your own on your hook ) do not much esteem them.

The chief-  
est way to  
use the  
*Oak-worm*.

10. Under the bark of an *Oak, Ash, Alder*, and *Birch* especially, if they lie a year or more after they are fallen, you  
F may

Bark-  
worms.

may find a great white Worm, with a brown head, something resembling a *Dore-Bee* or *Humble-Bee*, this is in season all the year especially from *September* untill *June*, or mid-way, the *Umber* covets this bait above any save *Flie* and *Cadbait* : you may also find this worm in the body of a rotten Alder, if you break it with an *Ax* or *Beetle*, but be careful only to shake the Tree in pieces with beating, and crush not the Worm : you may also find him under the bark of the stump of a Tree, if decayed.

How to  
use Wasps.

11. Dry your *Wasps*, *Dores*, or *Bees*, upon a *Tile-stone*, or in an *Oven* cooled after baking, lest they burn ; and to avoid that, you must lay them on a thin board or chip, and cover them with another so supported, as not to crush them, or else clap two *Cakes* together : this way they will keep long, and stick on your hook well : If you boil them hard, they grow black in a few days.

Sheeps  
blood, how  
to use it.

12. Dry your *Sheeps blood* in the Air upon a dry board, till it become a pretty hard lump ; then cut it into small pieces for your use.

How to  
order  
Grain.

13. When you use *Grain*, boyl it soft in milk, or which I like better, in sweet wort, and peel off the outward rind which is the bran ; and then if you will, you may fry

fry the same in Honey and Milk, or some strong scented Oyls, as *Amber, Polypody, Spike, Ivy, Turpentine*; for Nature, which maketh nothing in vain, hath given the Fish Nostrils, and that they can smell is undeniable; and, I am perswaded, are more guided by the sense of smelling; than sight; for sometimes they will come to the float, if any wax be upon it, smell at it and go away. We see also that strong scents draw them together; as, put *Grains, Worms, or Snails* in a bottle of Hay tyed pretty close, and you will if you pluck it out suddenly, sometime draw up *Eels* in it. But I never yet made tryal of any of these Oyls; for when I had the Oyls, I wanted time to try them; or when I had time, I wanted the Oyls; but I recommend them to tryal of others, and do purpose (God willing) to prove their virtue my self, especially that Oyntment so highly commended by *I. D.* in his *Secret Angling*.

14. When you see the *Ant-flies* in greater plenty, go to the *Ant-hills* where they breed, rake a great handfull of the earth, with as much of the roots of the grass that groweth on those hills, put all into a large glass bottle, then gather a pottle full of the blackest *Ant-flies* unbruised, put them into the bottle (or into

*Ant-flies,*

a firkin, if you would keep them long ) first washed with Honey, or Water and Honey ; *Roach* and *Dace* will bite at these Flies under water near the ground.

Bobs after  
the Plough.

15. When you gather Bobs after the Plough, put them into a Firkin with sufficient of the soil they were bred in, to preserve them, stop the vessel exceeding close, or all will spoil, set it where neither wind nor frost may offend them, and they will keep all winter for your use.

To breed  
and keep  
Gentles.

16. At the latter end of *September*, take some dead Carrion that hath some Maggots bred in it that begin to creep, bury all deep in the ground, that the frost kill them not, and they will serve in *March* or *April* following to use.

To find  
the flag-  
worm.

17. To find the *Flag-worm* do thus, go to an old pond or pit where there are store of Flags or (as some call them) Sedges, pull some up by the roots, then shake those roots in the water, till all the mud and dirt be washed away from them, then amongst the small strings or fibres that grow to the roots, you will find little husks or cases of a reddish or yellowish, and some of other colours, open these carefully with a pin, and you will find in them a little small worm, white as a *Gentle*, but longer & slenderer ; this is an excellent bait for *Tench*

*Bream*

*Bream*, especially *Carp*: if you pull the Flags in sunder, and cut open the round stalk, you will also find a Worm like the former in the husk, but tougher, and in that respect better.

18. Carry your baits for the *Pike* in Bran, which will dry up the slimy moisture that is on them, and so keep them longer, and make them stick more firmly on your Hook: besides, there is a green watery substance that issueth out of the Fish which will infect and rot them, but the Bran drying the same up, preventeth that mischief.

19. Fish bite best at *Grashoppers* in the latter end of *July*, and in *August*, you must cut off their legs and outmost wings; the middle size is better than either the extraordinary great ones, or the small.

## CHAP. VII.

*Of several haunts or resorts of Fishes, and in what Rivers, or places of them they are most usually found.*

His part of our Discourse being a discovery of the several places or Rivers each kind of Fish doth most haunt or covet, and in which they are ordinarily found.

The several sorts of Rivers, Streams,

## The Experienced Angler :

Soyls, and Waters they most frequent, is a matter (in this under valued Art) of no small importance; for if you come with Baits for the *Trout* or *Umber*, and angle for them in slow muddy Rivers or places, you will have little (if any) sport at all: and to seek for *Carp* or *Tench* in stony swift Rivers, is equally preposterous; and tho I know that sometime you may meet with Fish in such Rivers & places, as they do not usually frequent (for no general Rule but admits of particular Exceptions) yet the exact knowledg of what Rivers or Soyls, or what part of the River (for some Rivers have swift gravelly streams, and also slow, deep muddy places) such or such sorts of fish do most frequent, will exceedingly adapt you to know what Rivers, or what part of them are most fit for your baits, or what baits suit best with each River, and the Fish in the same.

1. The *Salmon* loveth large swift Rivers where it ebberh and floweth, & there they are found in greatest numbers, nevertheless I have known them to be found in lesser Rivers, high up in the country, yet chiefly in the latter end of the year, when they come thither to spawn, he chooseth the most swift and violent streams, (or rather Cataracts) and in *England* the clearest gravelly rivers usually with rocks or weeds, but in *Ireland* I do not know any River ( I mean high in the

the Country ) that hath such plenty of them, as the black-water by *Charlemont*, and the broad-water by *Shanes Castle*, both which have their heads in great bogs, and are of a dark muddy colour, and very few (comparatively) in the upper ban, though clearer and swifter than they.

2. The *Trout* loveth small purling Brooks, or Rivers that are very swift, and run upon stones or gravel: he feedeth whilst strong in the swiftest streams, and in the deepest part of it (especially if he be a large one) and behind a stone-block, or some bank that shooteth forth with a point into the River, upon which the stream beareth much and causeth a whirling of the water back by the bank-side, much like the eddy of the tide: & he the more willingly maketh choice of this place, if there be a shade over his head, as a bush, foam, or a hollow hanging Bank, under which he can shelter himself; behind a stone, log, or some small bank that shooteth into the River, which the stream beareth upon, and there he lieth watching for what cometh down the stream, & suddenly catcheth it up; his hold is usually in the deep, under a hollow place of the bank, or a stone that lieth hollow, which he loveth exceedingly: & sometimes, but not so usually, he is found in weeds.

3. The *Pearch* loveth a gentle stream of



a reasonable depth ( seldom shallow close by a hollow Bank ; and though these three sorts of fish covet clear and swift Rivers, green weeds and stony gravel; yet they are sometimes found ( but not in such plenty and goodness ) in slow muddy Rivers.

4. *Carp, Tench* and *Eels*, seek mud and a still water ; *Eeles* under roots or stones ; a *Carp* chuseth the deepest and stillest place of Pond or River, so doth the *Tench*, and also green weeds, which he loveth exceedingly : Greatest *Eeles* love, as before, but the smaller ones are found in all sorts of Rivers and soils.

5. *Pike, Bream* and *Chub*, chuse Sand or Clay ; the *Bream* a gentle stream, & broadest part of the River; the *Pike* still Pools full of Frie, and shelters himself (the better to surprise his prey unawares) amongst Bull-rushes, water docks, or under Buihes ; the *Chub* loves the same ground ( is more rarely found without some tree to shade and cover him ) large Rivers and streams.

6. *Barbell, Roach, Dace, Ruff*, seek gravel and sand more than the *Bream*, and the deepest parts of the River, where shady Trees are more grateful to them, than to the *Chub* or *Chevin*.

7. The *Umber* desires Marle, Clay, clear waters, swift streams, far from the Sea (for I never saw any taken near it) & the greatest plenty

plenty of them that I know of, are found in the mountain parts of *Derby-shire*, and *Stafford-shire*, as *Dove*, *Trent*, *Derwent*, &c.

8. *Gudgeon* desires sandy, gravelly, gentle streams, and smaller Rivers, but I have known them taken in great abundance in *Trent* in *Derby-shire*, where it is very large, but conceive them to be in greater plenty nearer the head of that river about or above *Heywood*; I can say the same of other Rivers, and therefore conceive they love smaller Rivers rather than the larger, or the small Brooks; for I never found them in so great plenty in Brooks, as small Rivers: He bites best in the Spring till he spawns, and little after, till *Wasp* time.

9. *Shad*, *Thwait*, *Peel*, *Mullet*, *Swamp*, and *Flounder*, love chiefly to be in or near, the saltish waters, where it ebbeth and floweth; I have known the *Flounder* taken (in good plenty) in fresh Rivers, they covet Sand and Gravel, deep, gentle streams near the Bank, or at the end of a stream in a deep still place: Though these rules may, and do hold good in the general, yet I have found them admit of particular exceptions; but every mans Habitation engageth him to one (or usually at most to) two Rivers, his own experience will quickly inform him of the nature of the same, & the fish in them. I would perswade all that love Angling,

Angling & desire to be complete Anglers, to spend some time in all sorts of waters, Ponds: Rivers, swift & slow, stony, gravelly, muddy, & slimy; & to observe all the differences in the nature of the fish, the waters & baits, & by this means he will be able to take fish where ever he angleth; otherwise (through want of experience) he will be like the man that could read in no book but his own; besides a man (his occasions or desires drawing him from home) must only stand as an idle spectator, whilst others kill fish, but he none, & so lose the repute of a compleat Angler, how excellent soever he be at his own known River.

Fish  
change  
places  
with the  
season

Furthermore, you must understand, that as some fish covet one soyl more than another, so they differ in their choice of place in every season, some keep all Summer long near the top, some never leave the bottom; for the former sort you may angle with a Quill or small fote near the top, with a flie or any sort of worm bred on herbs or trees, or with a flie at the top: the latter sort you will all summer long find at the tails of Wiers, Mills, Flood-gates, Arches of Bridges, or the more shallow parts of the River, in a strong, swift, or gentle stream except *Carp*, & *Tench*, & *Eel*; in Winter all flie unto the deep still places; where it eb- beth and floweth they will sometimes bite best

## Of Angling Improb'd.

best, in the ebb most usually, sometimes when it floweth, rarely at full water, near the Arches of Bridges, Wiers, Flood-gates.

### C H A P. VIII.

*What times are unseasonable to Angle in.*

**T**Here being a time for all things; in which with ease and facility the same may be accomplished, and most difficult, if not impossible at another: The skill and knowledge how to chuse the best season to angle, and how to avoid the contrary, come next to be handled; which I shall do first Negatively, *viz.* What times are unfit to angle; and then Affirmatively, which are the best seasons.

When  
unseasonable to  
angle.

1. When the Earth is parched with a great drought, so that the Rivers run with a much less current than usually, its to no purpose to Angle; and indeed the heat of the day in Summer (except cooled by winds, and shadowed with Clouds, though there be no drought) you will find very little sport, especially in muddy, or very shallow and clear Rivers.

2. In cold, frosty, snowy weather, I know the Fish must eat in all seasons, and that a man may kill Fish when he must first break the

the Ice ; yet I conceive the sport is not then worth pursuing, the extream cold taking away the delight ; besides, the endangering health (if not life) by those colds, which at least cause Rheums and Coughs : Wherefore I leave Winter and night-angling to such strong healthful bodies, whose extraordinary delight in angling, or those whose necessity enforceth them to seek profit by their recreation in such unseasonable times.

3. When there happeneth in the Spring-time (especially) or Summer, any small hoary frost, all that day after the fish will not rise freely and kindly, except in the evening, and that the same prove very pleasant.

4. If the wind be extreme high, so that you cannot guide your tools to advantage.

5. When Shepherds or Country-men wash their Sheep, though whilst they are washing (I mean the first time only) the fish will bite exceedingly well ; I suppose the filth that falleth from the Sheep doth draw them (as your baiting a place) together, and then they so glut themselves, that till the whole washing time be over, and they have digested their fulness, they will not take any artificial baits.

6. Sharp, bitter, nipping winds, which most usually blow out of the North or East especially, blast your recreation ;  
but

but this is rather the Season, than the wind, though I also judge those winds have a secret malign quality to hinder the recreation.

7. After any sort of fish have spawned they will not bite any thing to purpose, until they have recovered their strength and former appetite.

8. When any clouds arise that will certainly bring a shower or storm (though in the midst of Summer) they will not bite: I have observ'd that tho' the fish bite most eagerly, & to your hearts content, yet upon the first appearing of any clouds, that will certainly bring rain (though my own judgment could not then apprehend, or in the least conjecture, that a storm was arising) they have immediately left off biting; and that hath been all that hath given me to understand that a shower was coming, and that it was Prudence to seek shelter against the same.

9. When the nights prove dark & cloudy, and that the Moon shines not at all, or but very little, the day ensuing you will have little or no sport, except at the small ones; for when the great fish, that prey on others, range abroad, the lesser hide themselves in their holes, to escape the danger of devouring: for prudent Nature hath endowed all Creatures with that natural instinct, as to avoid

avoid times of danger, as we see wild Beasts and beasts of pray range abroad in the Night, the tame Cattle feed in the day ; & you never see the *Menow* (a Fish the *Trout* covets) stir in the Night or in dark windy weather when the great *Trouts* are abroad, but his most usual time is from an hour after Sun-rising ( if the day prove fair ) till an hour before Sun-set ; so that when the Nights are very dark or windy, the next day rarely proves very successful to the Angler for great *Trout*.

10. In small and clear Brooks where the Mills stand and keep up the water, you will not ordinarily do any good, at the ground especially, and but little with the Flie, for the *Trout* will at such a time hardly come out of his hold.

## CHAP. IX.

*The best times and seasons to Angle.*

When it is  
best to  
Angle.

**W**ENOW come to the Affirmative, part which is the best season to angle, that as before we discovered when it would be lost labour to seek recreation: so now you may learn to improve opportunity (when it offers it self) to best advantage.

1. Calm, clear (or which is better ) cool cloudy weather in Summer, the wind blowing



ing gently, so as you may guide your tools with ease; in the hottest Months the cooler the better.

2. When the floods have carried away all the filth that the rain had washed from the higher grounds into the River, and that the River keepeth his usual bounds, and looketh of a Whey-colour.

3. When a sudden violent shower hath a little mudded and raised the River, then if you go forth in, or immediately after such a shower, and Angle in the stream at the ground (with a red Worm chiefly) if there be store of Fish in the River, you will have sport to your own desire.

4. A little before any Fish spawn (your own observation will inform you of the time by the fulness of their bellies) they come into the gravelly sandy foards to rub and loosen their bellies, and then they bite very freely.

5. When Rivers after rain do rise, yet so as they keep within their banks, in swift rivers the violence of the stream forceth the Fish to seek shelter and quiet ease, in the little and milder currents of small Brooks, where they fall into larger Rivers, and behind the end of bridges that are longer than the breadth of the River, making a low vacancy, where the Bridge defends a small spot of ground from the violence of the stream,

stream or in any low place near the Rivers side, where the fish may lie at rest & secure from the disturbance of the rapid stream; in such a place (being not very deep) and at such a time, you will find sport : my self have ever found it equal to the best season.

6 Early in the morning from (*Carp* and *Tench* before ) Sun-rising, until eight of the clock ; and from four afternoon till night : *Carp* and *Tench*, from Sun-set till far in the night in the hot months. In the heat of the day in *June* and *July*, when *Carp*s shew themselves upon the top of the water, if you take a well scour'd lob-worm, and cast the same to them, as you would Angle with a natural flie, they will bite well; but you must be very careful to keep out of their sight, or you will do no good; they bite this way best amongst weeds.

7. In *March*, beginning of *April*, latter end of *September*, and all winter, fish bite best in the warmth of the day, no winds stirring, the air clear; in summer months, morning and evening is best, or cool cloudy weather : if you can find shelter, no matter how high the wind be.

8. Fish rise best at the flie after a shower that hath not mudded the water, yet hath beaten the Gnats and flies into the Rivers, you may in such a shower observe them rise much if you will endure the rain ; also the best

best Months for the flie are *March, April, May*, part of *June*; in the cooler months, in the warmest time of the day in warmer weather, about nine in the morning; three afternoon, if any gentle gale blow; sometimes in a warm evening, when the Gnats play much.

9. In calm clear and star-light nights, especially if the Moon shine, *Trouts* are as wary and fearful as in dark windy days, and stir not; but if the next day prove cloudy and windy, and the water in order, you may assure your self of sport, if there be store of fish in the River; for having abstained from food all night, they are more hungry and eager, and the darkness and windiness of the day makes them more bold to bite.

10. In small and clear Brooks if you come in, or immediately after a shower, that hath raised the water, or take it just as any Mill-water beginneth to come down, and so go along with the course of the water, *Trouts* will then bite well; for at such a time they come forth to seek food, which they expect the water will bring down with it.

11. In *May* especially, and generally all Summer, if the morning prove extream cold, as sometimes it doth (although there be no frost) the fish will not bite to any purpose, until the day wax warmer; and if it

G

prove

prove cold all day long, they will bite best where the Sun shines, but not at all in the shady parts of the River.

Also after the River is cleared from a flood they rise exceeding well, I conceive they were glutted with ground-baits, and now covet the flie, having wanted it a time.

1. A *Trout* bites best in a muddy rising water, in dark, cloudy, windy weather, early in the morning, from half an hour after eight till ten; and in the afternoon, from three till after four, and sometimes in the evening; but nine in the morning, & three in the afternoon, are his chiefest and most constant hours of biting at ground or flie, as the water suits either; *March, April, May*, and part of *June* are his chiefest months, though he bites well in *July, August* and *September*. After a shower in the evening he riseth well at gnats, he taketh the *Menow* best when the wind is in the south or south-west, and bloweth strongly, curling the waters, and raising high waves. The *Trout* bites best at the *Menow* in *March*, and beginning of *April*, and in *September*; but in the Summer months he bites not freely at the *Menow* in the day time, except the same be dark, and the wind very high; & in the Summer months you must add some Lead to your line, and sink the *Menow* to the bottom,

om, for otherwise the *Trout* will not take him at the top in Summer, and clear weather. In little Brooks that fall into large Rivers where it ebbs & flows, only in fresh water or a little brackish (for the salt water have not tryed) if you begin at the mouth of such Brooks, just as the tide cometh in, and go up the Brook with the head of the tide, and return with the ebbing of the water, you will often take good *Trouts*, and have much sport; and if the tide do not muddy the water, they will also rise at the lie at such a time.

2. *Salmon*, three after noon, chiefly in *May, June, July, August*, a clear water and some wind; and he biteth best when the wind bloweth against the stream, and near the Sea.

3. The *Barbel* biteth best early in the morning, till nine or ten of the clock; the latter end of *May, June, July*, and beginning of *August*.

4. The *Pearch* biteth well all the day long, in cool cloudy weather, yet chiefly from eight in the morning till ten; & from a little before three in the afternoon, till about five; and sometimes later, especially in hot weather and midst of Summer; The *Perch* is much of his nature and disposition.

5. *Carp* and *Tench*, morning and evening

very early and late, *June*, *July*, and *August*, or indeed in the night in the still parts of the River.

6 A *Chevin* from Sun-rising or earlier (at Snails especially, for in the heat of the day he careth not for them) in *June* and *July*, till about eight; again at three afternoon on ground or flie; and his chief flie which he most delights in, is a great *Moth*, with a very great head, not unlike to an Owl, with whitish wings & yellowish body (you may find them flying abroad in Summer evenings in Gardens) some wind stirring, large Rivers chiefly, streams or shade: he will take a small *Lamprey* or *Seven-eyes*, and *Eel* brood, either of them about a straws bigness.

7. *Pike* bites best about three afternoon in a clear water, a gentle gale; *July* *August*, *September*, *October*, usually in the still places, or at least in a gentle stream. In the months of *August*, *September*, and all Winter, he bites all the day long, especially about three afternoon, the water clear, and the day windy: In *April*, *May*, *June*, and beginning of *July*, he bites best early in the morning, and late in the evening; I could never observe that he would bite any thing to purpose in the night, of all the year.

8. A *Bream* from about Sun-rising till eight, in a muddy water, a good gale of wind.

wind; and in Ponds the higher the wind, and where the waves are highest, and nearer the middle of the Pond, the better; end of *May*, *June*, *July* (especially) and *August*, in a gentle stream or near to it.

9. *Roach* and *Dace* all day long, best at the top, at flie or *Oak-worm* principally, and at all other worms bred on herbs or trees, *Palmer's*, *Caterpillars*, &c. in plain Rivers or Ponds, under Water-dock leaves under shady trees.

10. *Gudgeon*, *April*, and till he have spawned, in *May*, and a little after that till *Wasp* time, except in cool weather or after a shower or Land-floud; and then to the end of the year all day long, in or near to a gentle stream. When you angle for the *Gudgeon*, stir or rake the Sand or Gravel with a long pole, and they will gather to that place and bite much the better.

11. *Flounder* all day in *April*, *May*, *June*, *July*, in a good swift stream, sometimes in the still deep; but not so ordinarily as in the stream.



## C H A P. X.

*General Observations.*

**A**Lthough this whole Treatise be in the greatest part of it only General Observations, yet there are some Directions which fall not under any consideration but are as applicable to the flie as the ground angle ; and as equally useful (for their practical part) in the one kind of angling as the other. For although all ground baits are useful and certain almost in every River, yet it is not so in the Flie, which varieth in kind, colour, or proportion well nigh in every River ; and therefore no general Rules (as I conceive) can be given in that particular, more than are already delivered : except every particular circumstance should be mentioned, which would be too tedious, and indeed unnecessary to any ingenious nature ; who may with ease from the former general Rules, draw particular conclusions ; by the help of his own Practice and Experience in those Rivers he most usually and frequently angleteth at : For as to such Rivers of which a man hath had no experience, he must either learn something (I mean as to flie-angling)

from

from such as know the River, otherwise (though the most expert of Anglers) he will be at a loss, until his own Experience (which by reason of his knowledg in variety of Rivers and Soils, they walk through) will adapt him with more ease and facility, to make Observations upon the same: But these that follow are of an universal use and nature.

1. Let the Anglers Apparel be sad, dark colours, as sad grays, tawny, purple, hair or musk-colour,

2. Use Shoemakers wax to your silk or thred, with which you make or mend either Rod or Flie; it holds more firmly, and sticketh better than any other.

3. Into such places as you use to Angle at, once a week at least cast in all sorts of Corn boyled soft, Grains washed in blood, blood dried and cast into pieces, *Snails*, worms chopt small, pieces of fowl or beast Guts, beast Livers; for *Carp* and *Tench* you cannot feed too often, or too much, this course draweth the Fish to the place you desire: And to keep them together, cast about twenty grains of ground-Malt at a time, now and then as you Angle; and indeed all sorts of Baits are good to cast in, specially whilst you are Angling with that Bait, principally *Cadbait Gentles*, & *Wasps*,

and you will find they will snap up yours more eagerly, and with less suspicion ; but by no means when you angle in a stream cast them in at your hook, but something above where you angle, lest the stream carry them beyond your hook ; and so instead of drawing them to you, you draw them from you.

4. If you desire to feed the Fish, so as you may draw them into a stream, where you may rationally conclude that all such feeding as is cast into the same after the ordinary manner will be carried away : you must get Boxes of Tin, Wood, or Iron made full of holes, so wide as the Worms may creep through them, and with a Weight of Lead fastned to the Tin or Wood to sink them (filled with Worms) in the stream, fasten a strong Cord or Pack-thread to the Boxes, to recover them again at your pleasure ; this way the Worms will come forth leasurely and not all at once, and the Fish will be about the Boxes to gather them up as they crawl forth.

5. Take fine Clay, Barley, Malt ground, Water, or Milk, or ( which I like better ) blood, make all into a Paste ; and if you please put some of those strong sented Oyls, named before Page 55. or Gum of Ivy ; make this into several large Cakes,  
and

and cast them into the stream where you design to draw the Fish, and they will come to suck at it, and if you please you may stitch Worms unto it, or mould their heads into it. This is the best way to feed in a stream for *Salmon, Trout, Umber, &c.* that I have heard any Angler discourse of, or known practised. But if after you have baited any place twice or thrice, yet notwithstanding when you come to Angle there if you find no sport, if no man hath been before you at that place, or that there appear no grand impediment in the season or water; you may rationally conclude, some ravenous *Pike* or greedy *Pearch* hath taken up that place for his quarter, and affrights all other Fish, that they dare not adventure thither (as Merchants put not forth to Sea, when Pirates infest the same) for fear of being made a prey; to remedy which evil you must have your *Trowle* and a Bait of those named for the *Pike* ready, and so fall to work for him; and when that impediment is removed you may expect sport.

6. Destroy all Beasts or Birds that devour the Fish or their spawn, and endeavour (whether in Authority or not) to see all Statutes put in execution, against such as use unlawful Nets or means to take Fish; especially

## The Experienc'd Angler :

pecially bare Netting & Night-hooking.

7. Get your Rods and Tops without knots, they are dangerous for breaking.

8. Keep your Rod dry, lest it rot, and not near the fire, lest it grow brittle.

9. In drought wet your Rod a little before you begin to Angle.

10. *Lob-worms*, *Dew-worms*, and great Garden-worms all one.

11. When you angle at ground, or with the natural Flie, your Line must not exceed the length of your Rod. For the *Trout* at ground it must be shorter, and in some cases not half the length, as in small Brooks or Woody Rivers, either at ground or with the natural Flie.

12. When you have hooked a good Fish, have an especial care to keep your Rod bent, lest he run to the end of the Line, and break your hook or his hold.

13. Such tops or stocks as you get, must not be used till fully seasoned, which will not be in less time than one year and a quarter; But I like them better if kept till they be two years old.

14. The first Fish you catch, take up his belly, & you may then see his stomach; it is known by its largeness and place, lying from the Gills to the small Guts; take it out very tenderly (if you bruise it, your labour

bour and design are lost) and with a sharp knife cut it open without bruising, and then you find his food in it, and thereby discover what bait the fish at that instant takes best, flies or ground baits, and so fit them accordingly.

15. Fish are frighted with any the least sight or motion, therefore by all means keep out of sight, either by sheltring your self behind some bush or tree, or by standing so far off the Rivers side, that you can see nothing but your flie or flote; to effect this, a long Rod at ground, and a long Line with the artificial flie may be of use to you. And here I meet with two different opinions & practices, some always cast their flie & bait up the water, and so they say nothing occurreth to the Fishes sight but the Line: others fish down the River, and so suppose (the Rod and Line being long) the quantity of water takes away, or at least lesseneth the Fishes sight; but the other affirm, that Rod and Line, and perhaps your self, are seen also. In this difference of opinions I shall only say, in small Brooks you may angle upwards, or else in great Rivers you must wade, as I have known some, who thereby got the *Sciatica*, and I would not wish you to purchase pleasure at so dear a rate; besides, casting up the River you cannot

not keep your Line out of the water, which we noted for a fault before ; and they that use this way confesse that if in casting your flie, the line fall into the water before it, the flie were better uncast, because it frights the fish ; then certainly it must do it this way, whether the flie fall first or not, the line must first come to the fish or fall on him, which undoubtedly will fright him : Therefore my opinion is, that you angle down the River, for the other way you traverse twice so much, and beat not so much ground as downwards.

16. Keep the Sun (and Moon, if Night) before you, if your eyes will endure it, (which I much question) at least be sure to have those Planets on your side, for if they be on your back, your Rod will with its shadow offend much, and the Fish see further and clearer, when they look towards those Lights, than the contrary ; as you may experiment thus, in a dark Night if a man come betwixt you and any light, you see him clearly : but not at all if the light come betwixt you and him.

17. When you angle for the *Trout*, you need not make above three or four tryals in one place, either with Flie or ground-bait, for he will then either take it, or make an offer, or not stir at all, and so you lose  
time



time to stay there any longer.

18. To preserve Hazels, whether stocks or tops from worm-eating or rotting; twice or thrice in the year, as you see necessity requires, rub them all over with Sallet-Oyl, or Lind-seed Oyle, sweet Butter which was never salted, or Tallow, and with much rubbing chase the same very well into them; and if they be bored, pour into them either of the Oyles, or the Butter or Tallow melted, untill they be full; if you use Butter or Tallow, keep them so warm as that they freeze not, or grow hard by cooling: Let them stand thus a day or night, more or less, as you see the Oyle sink into them; afterward pour the Oyle back into the Bottle, to serve again for the same purpose another time; you must keep the end that stands downwards close stopp'd, lest the Oyls, Butter, or Tallow run out as it is put in.

19. When you Angle for the *Salmon* or *Trout*, and of all Day long have had little, or rather no sport, neither at ground or with the Flie; the very Night following, especially in the beginning of it, and untill Midnight, or near it, they will not fail to bite (at ground or Flie, as the season and water sute best for either) very freely and eagerly if the weather be not nipping cold or frosty.

20. Fish

## The Experienc'd Angler :

20. Fish take all sorts of baits most eagerly and freely, and with the least suspicion or bogling, when you present the same unto them in such order and manner, as Nature affords them, or as themselves ordinarily gather them.

21. If you desire to angle in a very swift stream, and have your bait rest in one place, and yet not over-burden your Line with Lead, take a Stone-bow or small Pistol-bullet, make a hole through it, wider at each side than in the middle; yet so open in every place, as that the Line may easily pass through it without any stop; place a very small piece of Lead on your Line, that may keep this Bullet from falling nearer the Hook than that piece of Lead, and if your flote be made large enough to bear above water against the force of the stream, the Fish will, when they bite, run away with the bait as securely, as if there were no more weight upon your line, than the little piece of Lead, because the hole in the Bullet gives passage to the Line, as if it were not there.

22. When Cattle in Summer come into the Foards, their Dung draweth the Fish unto the lower end of the Foard; at such a time angle for a *Chevin* with baits fit for him, and you will have sport

23. Before

23. Before you set your Hook to your Line, arm the Line by turning the silk five or six times about the link, and so with the same silk set on your Hook; this preserves your Line, that your Hook cut it not in sunder, and also that it will not, when you use the cast Flie, snap off so easily, which it is very subject to do.

24. In very wet seasons, when the Rains raise the Rivers, and almost continually keep them equal with their Banks, or at least above their ordinary height; the *Trouts* leave the Rivers and larger Brooks, and flee into such little Brooks as scarce run at all in dry Summers.

25. To all sorts of Pastes add Flax, Cotton, or Wool, to keep the Paste from falling off your hook.

26. Deny not part of what your endeavours shall purchase unto any sick or indigent persons, but willingly distribute a part of your purchase to those who may desire a share.

27. If you cut Weeds in a River, the better to make a place clear to angle in for *Carp*s; they will not (although before the cutting of the Weeds they haunted the place very much) come there again of two or three Months.

28. If you come to angle for *Carp* in  
some

some broad place of Pond or River, where you cannot reach with any ordinary Rod or Line; If you take a Boat that you may more easily cast your Bait to that part you design to angle in: and although you have Bull-rushes or Weeds betwixt you and it, so as you may hope to shadow your self from the Fishes sight; yet though you row never so circumspectly, the Boat will so move the water, that you will affright them, so as for that time you will have no sport: therefore you must have a Rod of such a length as will from the Bank without a Boat reach the place, or you will kill no *Carp*s, they are so very wary and fearful.

29. The Eyes of those Fishes you catch, if you pull them out and use them on the Hook, are an excellent Bait for most sort of Fish

30. Make not a daily practice (which is nothing else but a profession) of any recreation, lest your immoderate love and delight therein, bring a cross with it, and blast all your content and pleasure in the same.

FINIS.

# THE

# TABLE.

## A

## Page

<b>A</b> Ngling Tools when to provide,	2
Angling the several kinds,	11
Angling for the <i>Trout</i> at ground,	31
Angling in the Night,	33
Angling with the <i>Mew</i> ,	34
Angling with the <i>Trawl</i> for a <i>Pike</i> ,	35
Angling for the <i>Eel</i> ,	39
Angling for the <i>Roch</i> ,	42
Angling at ground, Directions,	40
<i>Ant-flies</i> to keep,	67
Angling in a swift stream how,	93

## B

Bags for Worms,	10
<i>Barbel</i> his Baits,	51
his time of spawning,	51
his haunt,	72
his chiefeft time of biting,	83
<i>Barkworm</i> ,	65
<i>Bleak</i> his Baits, haunt, &c. as the <i>Roch</i> ,	56
Blood how to order,	66
Bobs their kinds how to find,	58
how to keep them,	63
Boxes for <i>Flies</i> , <i>Cankers</i> , &c.	10

## H

## Bobbing

# The Table.

Bobbing for <i>Eels</i> ,	39
Brogling for <i>Eels</i> ,	<i>ibid.</i>
Breaking hold in tender-mouth'd Fish,	
how to prevent,	48
<i>Bream</i> his Baits,	58
his spawning-time,	<i>ibid.</i>
his haunt,	72
his best time of biting,	84
<i>Bulthead</i> his Baits,	60
C	
<i>Cadbait</i> his kinds ;	63
how to keep them,	64
how to use them,	29
Cane or Reed its best use,	3
<i>Carp</i> his Baits,	52
his time of spawning,	<i>ibid.</i>
his haunts,	72
his best times of biting,	83
<i>Chevin</i> or <i>Chub</i> his Baits,	56
his spawning-time,	57
his haunt,	72
his best seasons of biting.	83
D	
<i>Dace</i> his Baits,	56
his time of spawning,	<i>ibid.</i>
his haunt,	91
his best time of biting,	85
Depth of water to try.	9
E	
<i>Eel</i> his Baits,	55
	his

# The Table.

39	his haunt,	72
bid.	his best times of biting in a muddy wa-	
ish,	ter,	44
48	F	
58	<i>Flie</i> natural to angle with,	13
bid.	directions for it,	16
72	<i>Flie</i> , what Fish rise best at it,	13
84	when each <i>Flie</i> cometh in,	14
60	how to find that time,	15
	when Fish rise best at the <i>Flie</i> ,	13
63	<i>Flie</i> artificial angling with it,	17
64	<i>Flie</i> artificial to make,	18
29	directions in making it,	23
3	directions how to use the same,	ibid.
52	directions as to the waters,	24
bid.	Feeding in a stream,	87
72	Feeding Fish the best way,	88
83	Float to make,	9
56	<i>Flag-worm</i> ,	68
57	<i>Flounder</i> his Baits,	57
72	his haunt,	73
83	his best time of biting,	85
	Fish change places with the season.	74
56	G	
bid.	<i>Gudgeon</i> his Baits,	55
91	his time of spawning,	ibid.
85	his haunt,	73
9	what time he biteth best,	81
	Great Fish how to land,	10
55	Grain how to order,	66
his	H 2	
	<i>Grayling</i>	



# The Table.

*Grayling, vide Umber.*

**H**

Hooks their shape, 8  
 how to set them to the Line, *ibid.*  
 how to sharpen them, 9  
 Hooks how to arm, 94

**L**

Lines how to make, 6  
 Lines, Links, Flies, to carry, 11  
 Loach his haunt, baits, &c. 59

**M**

*Menow* his baits, haunt, &c. 57  
*Mullet* his baits, 58  
 his haunt, biting-time as the *Flounder*, 85  
*Maggot* or *Gentles* to breed and keep, 68

**N**

Night, what time fish certainly bite, 93

**O**

*Oak-worm*, and how to keep, 63  
 when and how the Fish take it best, 17 & 66

**P**

*Panier*, 11  
 Pastes to make, 66  
*Pearch* his baits, 51  
 his time of spawning, 52  
 his haunt, 71  
 what times he biteth best, 83  
*Pike* his Baits, 54  
 his time of spawning, *ibid.*  
 his

# The Table.

	his haunt,	72
	what seasons he biteth best,	84
8	to Trowl for him,	35
id.	to halter him,	49
9	<b>R</b>	
94	<i>Roe</i> his baits,	54
	his time of spawning,	ibid.
6	his haunt,	72
1	what times he biteth best,	84
9	Rods of Hazel to preserve,	92
	<i>Ruffe</i> his baits,	55
7	his haunts,	71
8	what times he biteth best.	83
5	<b>S</b>	
8	<i>Salmon</i> his baits,	47
	his spawning time,	ibid.
3	his haunt,	70
	what seasons he biteth best,	82
3	<i>Shad, Suant, &amp;c.</i> their baits, haunt, biting-	
	times as the <i>Flounder</i> ,	58
6	Sight of Fish how to avoid,	90
	Spawn of Fish how to use,	65
1	<i>Swivel</i> how to use,	34
6	Sun, offence by it to avoid,	91
1	<b>T</b>	
2	<i>Tench</i> his baits,	53
1	his haunt,	72
3	what times he biteth best,	83
4	<i>Trout</i> his baits,	49.
4.	his spawning time,	ibid.
5	his	

# The Table.

his haunt,	71
what seasons he biteth best,	82
<i>Trout</i> to angle at the ground,	31
<i>Trout</i> you have missed to take,	34
<i>Trouts</i> in wet season where to find,	94
U	
<i>Usher</i> his baits,	49
his haunt,	72
what times he biteth best,	82
W	
<i>Wasps, Doves, &amp;c.</i> how to order,	66
<i>Worms</i> how to order,	61, 62
<i>Worm-Bags,</i>	10
Wet seasons to find <i>Trouts,</i>	94
When Fish bite certainly in the Night,	93

## FINIS.

*Courteous Reader.*

**Y**OU may be pleased to take notice  
that at the three *Trouts* on the North  
side of St. Pauls Church-yard, you may be  
fitted with all sorts of the best Fishing-  
Tackle by John Margrace,

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